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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE,
EXPLANATION, and VINDICATION
OF THE COURSE PURSUED BY THE
Grand Lodge of the State of New-York,
IN RELATION TO THE
UNMASONIC AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL ATTEMPT
OF A PORTION OF THEIR BODY TO REVO-
LUTIONIZE THE ORGANIZATION
THEREOF :—

Addressed to their Correspondents,
THE GRAND LODGES OF THE WORLD,

In compliance with the following Resolution, adopted June 7th, 1849,

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary, under the advice and supervision of the Grand Officers, be directed to prepare an appeal to the several Grand Lodges throughout the world, with which we are in communication, to sustain us in our efforts to maintain our Order in its purity, and thus enable us to transmit it unsullied to posterity, and be forever known as it ever has been from time immemorial, a Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons.

NEW-YORK:

BR J. M. MARSH, PRINTER, 5 ELDRIDGE-STREET.

.....

1849.

Grand Lodge of the State of New-York.

In compliance with the direction of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of New York, at its Annual Communication, June 7th, 5849, as expressed in their Resolution, the following statement has been prepared "under the supervision of the Grand Officers," and with their united concurrence and approval, is forwarded to the Grand Lodges throughout the world with which we are in communication, in the confident belief and expectation that the efforts of this Grand Lodge to maintain the Order in its purity and to preserve the rights of its members, will meet their hearty response and co-operation.

ISAAC PHILLIPS,
JOSEPH CUYLER,
DAVID BOOTH,
JOHN HORSPOOL,
JOHN COFFIN,
JOHN MANSFIELD,
JOHN W. HUDSWELL,
JAMES JENKINSON,
WILLIAM H. WALLING,
RUDOLPH AEBY,
DANIEL WEST,
JOHN SOLOMONS,
DANIEL WISHART,
E. G. TRIQUET,
C. F. BAUER,
J. B. SATTERTHWAITE,
N. F. WARING,
P. S. VAN HOUTEN,
JONATHAN JARVIS,
J. M. MARSH,
ROBERT ROBERTS,
JAMES McGRATH,
ELIAS W. NEXSEN,
GEO. L. THATCHER,
F. W. HERRING,

GRAND MASTER.
D. G. MASTER.
G. WARDEN.
G. TREASURER.
G. CHAPLAIN.
G. MARSHAL.
G. STANDARD BEARER.
G. SWORD BEARER.
S. G. DEACON.
J. G. DEACON.

G. STEWARDS.

ASSIST. G. SECRETARY. ■

A P P E A L
OF THE
GRAND LODGE of the STATE of NEW-YORK,
TO THE
Grand Lodges throughout the World.

At the Annual Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New-York, held at the Grand Lodge Room, Howard House, in the City of New-York, the following Resolution was adopted, June 7th, A. L. 5849, as published in the Annual Transactions, p. 30.

"Resolved, That the Grand Secretary, under the advice and supervision of the Grand Officers, be directed to prepare an appeal to the several Grand Lodges throughout the world, with which we are in communication, to sustain us in our efforts to maintain our Order in its purity, and thus enable us to transmit it unsullied to posterity, and be forever known as it ever has been, from time immemorial, a Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons."

Under the direction of the above resolution, I have a duty to perform, which I regret has not been committed to abler hands.

The events which have recently taken place in the jurisdiction of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, are to be narrated with truth, and spread before the several Grand Lodges of the world. The calm judgment of those Grand Lodges is appealed to, *that we may be sustained* in the course which we have been compelled to pursue in the preservation of the Grand Lodge of the State, to counteract the evil designs and cunningly devised machinations of a few persons, who have heretofore possessed the confidence of a considerable portion of our own Body, but who have *abused* that confidence by the encouragement of faction, disaffection, jealousies and disunion, and who having been successfully counteracted in their base attempts, have occupied themselves in the earliest moments of their discomfiture, by spreading before the Masonic world *their statement*, which is full of misrepresentations, slander, falsehood and abuse, and which is in keeping with their previous proceedings within the limits of this State. We appeal to the Grand Lodges of the world to sustain us, as THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK, whose integrity we have maintained, in accordance with its original Constitution by Charter from the

M. W. Grand Lodge of England; its unvaried organization for sixty-seven years; its Compact of union of 5827; and in preservation of the sacred rights of its component parts.

As necessary to a perfect understanding of the subject, I invite the attention of the several Grand Lodges to the peculiarity of the *original institution* of the Grand Lodge of New-York, it being not formed by a convention of Lodges, as many others have subsequently been, but established by *Charter*, as a Provincial Grand Lodge, in the City of New-York, independent of any former Dispensation, Warrant or Constitution. That *Charter* emanated from the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of England, in 1781, in the Grand Mastership of the Duke of Atholl. That *Charter*, which has ever been and is still preserved with the greatest care, clearly points out what persons *constitute this Grand Lodge*, and defines their powers *when "in Grand Lodge assembled."* By that document, the Grand Master and Grand Wardens, together with their lawful Associates, being the installed Masters, Wardens and PAST MASTERS of the regular Lodges within the jurisdiction, constitute the Grand Lodge. A copy of that *Charter* will be found in the Appendix, marked A.

Under that *Charter*, the Grand Lodge was organized in the city of New-York, on the 5th of December, 5782. On the 19th of September, 5783, the Grand Master and several other Grand Officers being about to leave the city of New-York, "the propriety of leaving the Grand Warrant, by which the Grand Lodge was *established* being fully discussed, it was *Resolved*, That the same should be left, and remain in the care of such Brethren as may hereafter be appointed to succeed the present Grand Officers." The Grand Master then resigned, and on his nomination the Junior Grand Warden, Bro. Cock, was unanimously elected, installed and proclaimed Grand Master; and other vacancies filled up as they occurred.

To digress from this narrative for a moment, it may be here remarked, that in a circular letter published at Utica, in March, 1849, it is averred, that

"On the evacuation of the city of New-York by the British army, the travelling Lodges evacuated it also, and the remaining Lodges immediately threw off all allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and asserted their local, territorial and jurisdictional independence. And *happening* to retain possession of the Warrant, Jewels, Funds and Records, of the Provincial Grand Lodge, they retained all but the *first*, and in their own expressive language, contained in the records of *our own Grand Lodge*, LAID ASIDE the warrant of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and drew up and adopted a Constitution upon the principles of the Ancient Masonic Constitutions, and the usages of the Fraternity in England, and elsewhere, and changing the name and style of the organization, formed themselves into an Independent Grand Lodge."

The records of the Grand Lodge authorize none of these asser-

tions. I have given before me, to the end of exceeding of interest had no idea at that they any idea that a Grand Lodge, November 1783, a roy, from Samuel Connecticut, dated Lodges in that Stat fer with Bro. Pome sideration of every determine thereon. approved on the 3d Archives of this G for it in vain. (Lil which I have soug places.) On the 4 voted to be a com cers elect of the S from the Grand I Grand Master Co ingston was unan installed Grand Ma Warden in behalf Lodge, to draw "the Grand Lodge Regulations," and Rules and Regul committee reports and ordered to be no new Constitut proposed. The existed in the Gr published in the aside the Warrant Grand Secretary narrating the pu time to make the Lodge of Englan used, but the Gr them more than Webb's Monitor 5th of September die, and an Inde

tions. I have given a faithful narrative from those records now before me, to the end of the war of the Revolution, and the next proceeding of interest in the Grand Lodge will clearly show that *they had no idea at that time, of laying aside their warrant, nor had they any idea that there was any other regular way of establishing a Grand Lodge, but by Warrant or Charter.* On the 5th of November 1783, a letter was received by the hands of Bro. Pomeroy, from Samuel H. Parsons, Esq. and others at New-Haven, Connecticut, dated October 20th, respecting the situation of the Lodges in that State, and a committee of five was appointed to confer with Bro. Pomeroy, and to enter fully and amply into the consideration of every proposal he might lay before them, and finally determine thereon. The report of that committee was received and approved on the 3d day of December 1783. That report *was* in the Archives of this Grand Lodge, until June, 1846, but I have sought for it in vain. (Like many other documents relating to this subject which I have sought for, they are no longer to be found in their places.) On the 4th of February, 1784, the Grand Officers were voted to be a committee to *determine the mode for the Grand Officers elect of the State of Connecticut obtaining a Grand Warrant from the Grand Lodge in England.* On the same evening, the Grand Master Cock resigned, and the Honorable Robert R. Livingston was unanimously elected, and afterwards proclaimed and installed Grand Master. On the 24th of February, 1785, the S. G. Warden in behalf of the committee, appointed at the last Stewards' Lodge, to draw "Rules and Regulations" for the government of *the Grand Lodge of this State*, reported a set of "Rules and Regulations," and a committee was then appointed "to prepare the Rules and Regulations, to be laid before the Grand Lodge," which committee reported in March 1785, when their work was approved and ordered to be printed. It will be noticed that in all this time, *no new Constitution* is spoken of as having been adopted, or even proposed. The Constitution, as printed in 1785, was the same as existed in the Grand Lodge of Ancient Freemasons of England, as published in the Ahiman Rezon of McDermot. The words "laid aside the Warrant," are not the words of the Grand Lodge, or the Grand Secretary, but are merely used by the Grand Secretary in narrating the *purport of a letter* from Lodge No. 210, asking for time to make their returns, until they could hear from the Grand Lodge of England, in which letter those words appear to have been used, but the Grand Lodge refused to admit their plea, or to allow them more than twenty days. Neither is it correct as stated in Webb's Monitor, and other books following that work, that on the 5th of September, 1787, the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed *sine die*, and an Independent Grand Lodge opened and the officers elect-

ed and installed. None of these things took place. I have before me a renewed Warrant to Independent Royal Arch Lodge, No. 2, from "the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York," beautifully written on parchment, there being no printed form, dated December the 10th, 1785. The transition from a Provincial to a State Grand Lodge, had evidently taken place *before that time*, and, as appears from the records and other documents, *naturally followed the course of public events*. The same Grand Officers remained, the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Lodge continued, and with the old Constitution were re-published in 1788. The only sign of variation in the conduct of the Grand Lodge as recorded on the minutes, is what is contained in the report of a committee which had been appointed March 7, 1787,

"To consider the propriety of holding the Grand Lodge under the present Warrant; and the proper measures to effect a change, *if it should be thought constitutional and expedient*."

That committee reported in June, 1787, as follows :

"That the G and Lodge of this State is ESTABLISHED according to the ancient and universal usages of Masonry, upon a Constitution* formed by the Representatives of regular Lodges convened under a legal WARRANT from the Grand Lodge of England, dated the fifth day of September, in the year of Masonry, five thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, the Most Noble Prince John the third, Duke of Atholl, being the then GRAND MASTER. And your Committee further beg leave to report, that in their opinion, *nothing is necessary or essential in future proceedings of the Grand Lodge, upon the subject matter referred to them*, but that a committee be appointed to prepare a draft of the style of Warrants to be hereafter granted by the Grand Lodge conformable to the said Constitution."

This report was read and confirmed, and in September following, the Warrants were reported printed. As in the Warrant, or Charter of this Grand Lodge, the Past Masters of the regular Lodges of the jurisdiction were declared to be the lawful associates of the

* The term *Constitution*, as used in that report, had no reference to the Constitution of Masonry, nor to any written laws which had been adopted by the Grand Lodge. Blackstone speaks of "the Constitution of [the British] Parliament," but by that he cannot be understood to mean the Constitution of the British Empire. In the old Book of the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of this State, there was a regulation, "That if any Lodge shall cease to meet regularly, for twelve months successively, its *Constitution* shall be forfeited, and its name erased out of the Grand Lodge book." In the *present* Book of the Constitutions, the same Article remains, but the word "Warrant" is substituted for "Constitution."

In the "Rules, Laws and Regulations" of the Grand Lodge of Ireland Article 18th, it is said: "If the *Warrant or Constitution of a Lodge* be sold, or procured by any other means, than through the regular permission of the Grand Lodge, such Constitution shall be forfeited, and the Warrant cancelled.

Grand Officers,* and "in Grand Lodge as" "tions" of the Grand nized the Past Master Grand Lodge.

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"The visiting and success, so far as the large number of Lodge collections amounted to from 1814 to 1820, to \$22,185 59 and retained of so large a proportion intended for the charity Lodge, and the system uance was urged, and

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* In reference to "Re proper to state in this co the Grand Lodge of Eng dens, Representatives of only is subject to instructions they are members, and representatives of all the Fr

In the 1st Article of the land, Ed. 1847, it is said a Master of a Lodge, who as he continues a subscriber and be a member of the Lodge is sufficient to pre

Grand Officers,* and the Masters and Wardens of Lodges, when "in Grand Lodge assembled," so also, the "Rules and Regulations" of the Grand Lodge of this State from 1785 to 1849, *recognized* the Past Masters of Lodges as a constituent portion of the Grand Lodge.

From 1785, the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York was occupied in her legitimate labors for many years, but unfortunately in her efforts to improve the condition of the Lodges at a distance from the city, by sending Grand Lecturers amongst them, whose interests were personal and entirely distinct from the interests of the Institution, a foundation was laid for sectional jealousies which have proved the bane of its prosperity to the present time."

In 1814, a new plan of visitation and lecturing was adopted. The State was divided into three Masonic Districts, one comprising the City of New-York and its vicinity, the two others were in the West and North. At that time, as before, the Lodges in the country might be represented by proxies, but no system of *paying* Representatives for mileage and attendance, out of the contributions of the Lodges had been adopted by the Grand Lodge of this State, nor by any other Grand Lodge.

"The visiting and lecturing system was attended by considerable success, so far as the collection of money was concerned, though a large number of Lodges were never visited, and the expense of the collections amounted to nearly fifty per cent. of the sum received, viz: from 1814 to 1820, the two Grand Visitors in the country collected \$22,185 59 and retained for compensation \$10,244 84. The diversion of so large a proportion of the collections from country Lodges, intended for the charity fund, caused great discontent in the Grand Lodge, and the system by degrees became odious; its discontinuance was urged, and it was finally abolished.

"But the Grand Visitors had obtained an influence by their personal intercourse, and the brethren in the country were, as now, arrayed in hostility to those in the city, on the erroneous idea that they

* In reference to "Representatives of Lodges," I think it may not be improper to state in this connection, that the Past Masters were, up to 1847, by the Grand Lodge of England, considered equally with the Masters and Wardens, Representatives of the Lodges. Since that time, the last Past Master only is subject to instructions; the others are set free from instruction, but they are members, and equally with the other members, "are the true representatives of all the Fraternity in communication."

In the 1st Article of the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of England, Ed. 1847, it is said, "Every Brother regularly elected and installed, as a Master of a Lodge, who has executed that office for one year, shall, so long as he continues a subscribing member of any Lodge, rank as a Past Master, and be a member of the Grand Lodge. Subscription as a member of any Lodge is sufficient to preserve his rank and *rights* as a Past Master.

had no interest in the Grand Lodge, nor any other return for the payment of their dues, than the instruction they received from the Grand Visitors, or Lecturers.

"A new plan of Grand Visitations was introduced in the Grand Lodge, in 1819, by the country delegation, by which it was proposed, that eighteen Grand Visitors should be appointed to travel throughout the State. Thirty miles were to be called a day's travel, and eight hours labor with a Lodge, and visit, a day's labor, to be paid from the Grand Lodge funds, at the rate of \$2 50 per day; these Grand Visitors were also to attend, and be paid for attending the Grand Lodge, where they were to be considered the legal *proxies of all the Lodges in their districts not otherwise represented*. In June, 1821, this plan was rejected, but at the same session, nearly \$1,300 were appropriated from the charity fund to pay the members in attendance from the country, and a resolution adopted *to pay representatives from Lodges in the country in future*; and another, destroying all equality of representation, by authorizing any delegate to represent *five Lodges and five Past Masters*, whereby a single individual could cast on any question twenty-one votes."

From this time forward, to June, 1823, the utmost efforts were made to excite and increase the disaffection of the country brethren. The removal of the Grand Lodge from the city of New-York, or the establishment of a Grand Lodge in the West, was proposed at Conventions in various parts of the country, in which some of the conspicuous actors, have been also prominent operators in the more recent transactions. "The abolishment of the system of quarterly dues to the Grand Lodge, and their retention in the respective subordinate Lodges" was suggested in their circulars.

The power of appointing proxies was abused by the papers being signed and sealed *in blank*, to be filled up at the discretion of the holders.

In June, 1822, a Committee was appointed in the Grand Lodge, consisting of two city members and six from the country, for the purpose of altering the Regulations of the Grand Lodge, and thereby carry out their designs. The intention could not be misunderstood, and a resolution was offered and laid upon the table, That it was expedient that two Grand Lodges be formed in the State of New York, viz., the one already located in the city of New York, and the other in such place out of the city, as a majority of the Lodges out of the city, and consenting to form a part thereof, should designate; and that the Lodges out of the city should be permitted to select their Grand Lodge."

Among the prominent innovations decided on by the above Committee, which were printed and circulated through the State, was the proposition to deprive Past Masters of the right to vote in the

Grand Lodge been, strenuous compromise made to the distraction of twenty-three in the Lodges of the whole body; b

In March, 1821, proxy power, was perverted, passed the name of every should be filled and at a regular to vote, were pr

In June, 1822, a caucus Lodge, a caucus prepared, for the stood at the time Lodges. At the ber of Brethren ment of a comm instruct the Com been made out was earnestly an country, and, in a decision of the declared that from with adjourned t which time he we not attend.

But the Grand members present den, re-opened, a adopted the Res noted, and from t rupted harmony a anti-Masonry, wh the centre of the mittee, agreed u compromises and "COMPACT;" and Constitutions upon pact of 1827."

The Constitution Regulations" only

Grand Lodge, together with many other points which were, and had been, strenuously objected to by the City Lodges. In hope that a compromise might be effected, and harmony be once more restored to the distracted Fraternity of the State, the Lodges of the city, twenty-three in number, by their delegates, submitted a plan to all the Lodges of the State to secure the interests and rights of the whole body; but the proposition was silently rejected.

In March, 1823, the Grand Lodge, to prevent the abuse of the proxy power, which, as has been stated above, had been grossly perverted, passed an explanatory resolution, after a preamble, That the name of every person appointed a proxy to represent a Lodge, should be filled up in open Lodge at the time of his appointment, and at a regular meeting, at which a constitutional number qualified to vote, were present.

In June, 1823, on the day previous to the meeting of the Grand Lodge, a caucus of Delegates from the country was held, and a list prepared, for the election of Grand Officers, which, as was understood at the time, excluded from office every member of the City Lodges. At the time appointed for the meeting, a very large number of Brethren were present, and upon a motion for the appointment of a committee to examine credentials, it was proposed to instruct the Committee to consider as regular, only such as had been made out conformably to the explanatory regulation. This was earnestly and vehemently objected to by the leaders from the country, and, in the course of debate on an appeal being taken from a decision of the Chair, upon a question of order, the Grand Master declared that from his decision there was *no appeal*, and he forthwith adjourned the Grand Lodge until the following morning, at which time he well knew the Brethren of the City Lodges could not attend.

But the Grand Lodge on the demand of at least one-half of the members present, was again convened by the Junior Grand Warden, re-opened, and proceeded to business, elected Grand Officers, adopted the Resolutions laid on the table in June, 1822, above noted, and from that time until June, 1827, proceeded in uninterrupted harmony and prosperity. In the midst of the whirlwind of anti-Masonry, which had at that time burst upon the Fraternity in the centre of the State, the two Grand Lodges, by a joint committee, agreed upon the settlement of all past difficulties by compromises and a mutual recognition of rights, and formed a "COMPACT;" and appointed the same Committee to revise the Constitutions upon the basis of that instrument, called "the Compact of 1827."

The Constitution, however, remained unchanged, the "General Regulations" only were revised. This is a brief history of the

Compact of 1827. The following extract from *the present* book of Constitutions furnishes "the Compact" itself, and the additional fact that it is regarded as *a fundamental law of the Grand Lodge*.

"At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, on the 7th day of June, A. L. 5827, two hundred and twenty-eight Lodges being represented, the following compact was agreed to unanimously, and is *a fundamental law of the Grand Lodge, which shall never be disturbed*.

1st. That there ought to be but one Grand Lodge in the State of New York, and that it ought to be held in the City of New York, and be considered as a continuation of the Old Grand Lodge. That all allusions to former differences, shall be avoided as far as possible.

2d. That the proceedings of the two bodies (known by the name of the Grand Lodge) shall be confirmed, and that the Warrants granted to Subordinate Lodges, by the two bodies, and the proceedings of the said bodies shall be deemed regular. That the records and archives of the Grand Lodge being in the City of New York, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer shall be chosen from the City; that the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master, shall be chosen from the City of New York, the other from the Country; the two Wardens from some other part of the State than the City of New York.

3d. That the permanent fund be managed by five Trustees, viz., the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the two Grand Wardens, and the Grand Secretary, whose duty it shall be to invest all funds over three thousand dollars, annually, after paying Representatives, salaries, and rent.

4th. That the number of Lodges which one Master or Past Master may represent, shall not exceed three, that Past Masters shall not be represented by proxy; and that Representatives be paid as heretofore."

This Compact the M. W. Grand Master, John D. Willard, of Troy, with his coadjutors, John S. Perry, of Troy, the late Grand Secretary, Robert R. Boyd, and their deluded supporters, attempted to violate, but which the Lodges in the City of New York, Albany, and some other parts of the State have preserved by their united action in the Grand Lodge, on the evening of the 5th of June last.

The origin of the events which have now reached a crisis, may be traced to Apollo Lodge, in the City of Troy, in the year 1841. The prime mover and active head of the monstrous faction which has kept the Fraternity of this unfortunate State in agitation from that time to the present, was a Past Master of that Lodge, and has been Grand Master from June 1846, to the 5th of June, 1849. Appearing occasionally at the head of his forces, he

has generally, with g upon others, while he paring for the accomp What they were will this narrative. The a quantity of rich mater I think necessary to re

For a few years after money existed amongst of the State. But the Masonic storm. Ever of the State ceased to Order, was this City of was in the unflinching who labored in the Loc day, and year after year to be realised by the reviv 1841, the first assault Lodge, which had been was made by a Resolut 2d of that month, "Th Lodge ought to be di Lodge was requested to nication to effect that Willard was Master of den, and the W. John S and Grand Visiter in the made and laid upon the annual meeting a Resolu and adopted at a *morning* to revise the Constitut This was the second act i On the 19th of Nover Grand Stewards Lodge, who had been suspended presented, "most unchar repeatedly stated to the intention to pay all as sc viding sustenance for hi also stated what he consi him, and accompanied his unmasonic conduct again

* The Regulations of the member in arrears for dues or

has generally, with great art, placed the responsibility of action upon others, while he has been secretly and actively at work in preparing for the accomplishment of his objects, whatever they were. What they were will probably sufficiently appear in the course of this narrative. The archives of the Grand Lodge retain a larger quantity of rich materials for the development of this mystery than I think necessary to refer to in this address.

For a few years after the Compact of 1827, the most perfect harmony existed amongst the Fraternity, composing the active Lodges of the State. But those Lodges gradually succumbed to the anti-Masonic storm. Every Lodge on the northern and western borders of the State ceased to exist. The strong hold—the Citadel of the Order, was this City of New York, and the strength of the garrison was in the unflinching fidelity of its intelligent body of Past Masters, who labored in the Lodges and amongst the Craftsmen from day to day, and year after year, until 1839, when their deferred hope began to be realised by the revival of Lodges in the west and north. In June, 1841, the first assault against the old Regulations of the Grand Lodge, which had been preserved and reserved under the Compact, was made by a Resolution passed in Apollo Lodge, of Troy, on the 2d of that month, "That the powers vested in the Grand Stewards' Lodge ought to be diminished," and the representative of that Lodge was requested to use his efforts at the next Annual Communication to effect that object. At that time the Rt. W. John D. Willard was Master of Apollo Lodge at Troy, and J. Grand Warden, and the W. John S. Perry a Past Master of the same Lodge, and Grand Visiter in the county of Rensselaer. The proposition was made and laid upon the table of the Grand Lodge, but at the next annual meeting a Resolution was introduced by the W. J. S. Perry, and adopted at a *morning session*, for the appointment of a committee to revise the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Lodge. This was the second act in the drama which has since been acted out.

On the 19th of November, 1842, an appeal was received by the Grand Stewards Lodge, from Richmond Jones, of Apollo Lodge, who had been suspended for non-payment of dues, and, as he represented, "most uncharitably and most unmasonically;" he having repeatedly stated to the Lodge his utter inability to pay, and his intention to pay all as soon as he was enabled so to do, after providing sustenance for his body and covering for his person;* he also stated what he considered the true causes of their act towards him, and accompanied his appeal with many specifications of gross unmasonic conduct against the Master and several other officers of

* The Regulations of the Grand Lodge permitted a Lodge to suspend a member in arrears for dues one year, but did not make it imperative to do so.

that Lodge. These papers were, simply as an appeal, referred, for the convenience of all the parties immediately interested, to the Rt. W. John D. Willard, then Senior Grand Warden, and the first six officers of King Solomon's Primitive Lodge at Troy, of which, at that time, W. John S. Perry was Senior Warden, for examination; with instructions to report the evidence and their opinions. The spirit which animated the Trojan Brethren towards the Grand Stewards' Lodge and the Grand Lodge, now began to be developed. The W. Master of Apollo Lodge, when he appeared before the Committee, gave expression to his bitter feelings against the Grand Stewards' Lodge in a speech.

"I respectfully ask permission of the Committee of Reference," he said, "to enter this, my solemn protest, against the doings of the Rt. W. Grand Stewards' Lodge, at their Communication on the 19th of November, 1842, in relation to the petition of Richmond Jones. To protest against them as in dereliction of the duty of the Rt. W. Grand Stewards' Lodge to an ancient and highly respectable Lodge, as oppressive to individual members of said Lodge, and as seriously injurious to the best interests of the Craft in this city. To protest against them as uncalled for by the circumstances under which the petition was made, and by the nature of the petition itself. To protest against them as giving a preference to the accuser over the accused, and in dragging before the bar of the Rt. W. Grand Stewards' Lodge a venerable masonic body, upon the bare statements of an individual and irresponsible Mason, vindictive under the rules of the order."

The continuation of this speech, which covers 14 pages of foolscap paper, would be wearisome. The Chairman of the Committee could not himself endorse the sentiments of the Master of his Lodge in their length and breadth, and told him it was "the right of any person who had been suspended or expelled, to appeal to the Grand Lodge, (and of the Grand Stewards' Lodge when the subject was committed to them to investigate such appeal.)" Nevertheless, when the report was rendered, he and the Committee subscribed to sentiments fully as objectionable as those expressed by the Master. After expressing their opinion that there was nothing in the testimony of the case which proved that the power given to suspend had been improperly exercised by Apollo Lodge, they said; "That, however, is a question in relation to which neither the undersigned, nor the Grand Stewards' Lodge, nor the Grand Lodge have any right to inquire." These sentiments in their report were so exceptionable, that the Grand Stewards' Lodge refused to receive them; excluded them from the record; and remarked, in their reply to the Committee, "That the opinions which the Committee have availed themselves of this occasion to advance officially, relating to

matters not submitted for the consideration of all governing bodies, the Grand Stewards' Lodge, in subordination to the Grand Lodge, they do not recognize. Masonry, the Regulator of the Grand Lodges, which leave the Grand Stewards' Brother, feeling him an appeal and the Grand Lodge, therefore, refuse to recognize the report of the Committee in the Record."

It would weary the reader to recite the numerous instances of the jealousy of this State against the Grand Lodge in its vicinity. Amongst the seeds of dissension, the seeds of discord, an undercurrent of opposition in favor of other Lodges, on every occasion was seized in, had been cultivated in annual session a revision of the Grand Lodge. Grand Officers was rep little to do with the document during the winter of 18 alterations in the old code laws, which had been time, taught me to be but on the immediate appeal of the Grand Lodge, when my attention in my office at their meetings; sufficient of my labors were Grand Warden, J. D. Town were regulating 1843 the papers were taken Grand Chaplain, the Report of 1844, the report was brought J. D. Willard, without a

matters not submitted to *them*, would, if acted on, tend to the subversion of all government amongst the Fraternity; and the Grand Stewards' Lodge, in order that no misunderstanding of the powers of subordinate Lodges may be hereafter entertained, do declare, that they do not recognize any privileges vested by the Constitutions of *Massey*, the Regulations of the Grand Lodge, or the Charters of Lodges, which leaves subordinate Lodges exempt from accountability to the Grand Lodge for an *abuse* of those privileges. And the Grand Stewards' Lodge trust the day may never arrive that a Brother, feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of a Lodge, shall appeal and the Grand Stewards' Lodge shall shrink from an honest and fearless investigation of the cause of his grievance, and decide with impartiality according to the evidence. The Grand Stewards' Lodge, therefore, refuse to accept the opinions referred to, as part of the report of the Committee, and order the same to be omitted in the Record."

It would weary the patience of the readers of this paper were I to recite the numerous expedients resorted to for the purpose of keeping alive the jealousies which had been excited in many parts of this State against the Lodges in the City of New York and its vicinity. Amongst those who were Royal Arch Masons, or Templars, the seeds of disunion were sown even in the City itself, and an undercurrent of opposition to particular individuals and of partisanship in favor of others was notorious for some years. But the occasion was seized in June, 1844, to widen the dissensions which had been cultivated in secret and in disguised approaches. At that annual session a revision of the Constitutions and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge prepared by a part of the Committee of Grand Officers was reported. As one of that committee I had very little to do with the document *as reported*. I had spent much time during the winter of 1842 and the spring of 1843 in making such alterations in the old code of laws as my experience, and existing laws, which had been enacted by the Grand Lodge from time to time, taught me to be necessary, but as the committee never met but on the immediate approach of the time for the annual meetings of the Grand Lodge, when my business as Grand Secretary required my attention in my office, I was seldom, and only at brief intervals, at their meetings; sufficiently, however, to be convinced that very little of my labors were to be used, and that the Rt. W. Senior Grand Warden, J. D. Willard, and the Grand Chaplain, Salem Town were regulating the Regulations to suit themselves. In 1843 the papers were taken to the country to be arranged by the Grand Chaplain, the Reverend Salem Town alone, and in June, 1844, the report was brought into the Grand Lodge by the Rt. W. J. D. Willard, *without a single signature*, acted on by sections at

the meetings held during the day only, when it was well known, by the experience of all past time that the city Brethren, with very few exceptions, could not be and never were present. At the first evening meeting, the time was occupied as usual with reading the minutes and preliminary business; the second evening was occupied with the election of Grand Officers, and on the third evening most of the country members were absent, and the city members found themselves almost alone, and from the minutes, learned that the revised Constitution and Regulations which had been under consideration all day, were laid over until nine o'clock the next morning. The object could not be misunderstood. The wishes, the counsel, the experience of the City Lodges were no longer required by their respectable Brethren who had assumed the management of that business. But not willing to abandon their rights in the Grand Lodge, or their necessary business avocations, they adopted the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That the final vote on the approval of the revised Constitution as a whole, shall not take place until Monday evening next, and if the same has not been approved of by sections previous to that time, then, that the final vote shall not be taken till the following evening after it has been approved of by sections."

The mover of this resolution then moved for its reconsideration, and stated why he offered that resolution. The motion to reconsider was negatived.

At the opening of the Grand Lodge on the following morning, Saturday, the 8th of June, 1844, the Rt. W. Brother Willard took the chair as Grand Master, the Rt. W. S. G. W. Richard Carrique as Deputy, with a general attendance of representatives of Country Lodges, and three City Brethren, two of whom were Grand Officers.

While the minutes of the previous evening were being read by the Grand Secretary, which appeared to convey to the Rt. W. Bro. Willard the first information of the counteraction of his plans, his discretion left him, he placed the Rt. W. Bro. Carrique in the chair,

"And, after a few introductory remarks, offered a Resolution, That the June Communication be now closed, which was duly seconded. The Rt. W. mover then expressed his wish to have the question taken without debate, but the Grand Secretary requested that the Rt. W. Bro. Gilbert,* who had been present at the meeting last evening, might be permitted to state the reasons given by the Rt. W. William Willis on offering the resolution then adopted, to defer the final action of the Grand Lodge on the revised Constitution, until Monday evening. The Rt. W. Bro. Gilbert made the explanation requested.

* Brother Gilbert was a very old member of the Grand Lodge from Columbia county, whose advice I hoped would be listened to.

The Rt. W. Brother speech of some length which was seconded. A previous question was voted, and the Grand Secretary would not speak, addressed the Grand moved, and on being Bro. Willard was put Lodge was then declared

The above quoted the Transactions of Grand Lodges in common to them.*

That Record, with design of conveying out entering into the elected Deputy Grand New-York, or exposure of a presiding officer which he recommended which then animated has passed, and the over what I conceived moved, that the progress of misrule, and meeting of the Grand of June, 1844, the Thursday evening be the rank of Deputy above mentioned, denouncing the "previous question" of the Annual Communication (the city members present hundred Past Masters feet."† The effect of to question whether they York, nor how they were

* Grand Master A. H. R. only 250 copies should be published and distributed, by the increasing prosperity

† The Rt. W. Brother W. the one made by him on this minutes, if it corresponded there, and many things he speech for the reasons here

The Rt. W. Brother Willard then addressed the Grand Lodge in an animated speech of some length, at the close of which he moved the *previous question*, which was seconded. At the earnest appeal of the Grand Secretary, the *previous question* was waived by the mover on condition that the Grand Secretary would not speak longer than he had done. The Grand Secretary then addressed the Grand Lodge, after which the *previous question* was again moved, and on being sustained by a majority, the resolution of the Rt. W. Bro. Willard was put to the vote, and passed in the affirmative. The Grand Lodge was then declared closed."

The above quotation is from the Record, and was published in the Transactions of 1844, which were forwarded to the several Grand Lodges in correspondence, and they are requested to refer to them.*

That Record, which was made by myself, was written with the design of conveying the main outlines of the proceeding truly, without entering into the details of the *insulting remarks* of the newly elected Deputy Grand Master towards the fraternity in the city of New-York, or exposing the body to *shame*, by exhibiting the conduct of a presiding officer and those who sustained him in the measure which he recommended, and which they adopted. The hope which then animated me of preserving even the show of harmony has passed, and the veil which I then in fraternal charity threw over what I conceived to be the frailty of the *Man*, must be removed, that the fraternity of the world may distinctly trace the progress of misrule, and judge of it for themselves. It was at that meeting of the Grand Lodge, on the morning of Saturday, the 8th of June, 1844, the Rt. W. John D. Willard, who only on the Thursday evening before, had been elevated without opposition to the rank of Deputy Grand Master, in the "animated speech" above mentioned, denounced the Brethren of the city of New-York as enemies of the country Lodges, and gave as his reason for moving the "*previous question*" upon his own resolution for closing the Annual Communication, that *he wished it done "before they (the city members present) could send out and drum up their three hundred Past Masters, to come there and trample them under their feet."*† The effect of this speech was electrical. Few men paused to question whether there were really 300 Past Masters in New-York, nor how they were to be "drummed up" if there were so

* Grand Master A. H. Robertson directed, that of the Transactions of 1844, only 250 copies should be printed, although 1000 copies had been usually published and distributed, that the energies of the Fraternity might be revived, by the increasing prosperity of the Grand Lodge.

† The Rt. W. Brother Willard afterwards brought me a written speech, as the one made by him on this occasion, which he desired me to enter on the minutes, *if it corresponded with my recollection of what he had said*; it did not correspond with my recollection of what he had said,—what he said *was not there*, and many things he did not say *were there*. I declined inserting that speech for the reasons here stated, and he did not press it.

many, nor whether they were really, as they had been represented, ready to trample their country Brethren "under their feet." The Deputy Grand Master, who was one of themselves, had announced their danger; the "*three hundred*" Past Masters might be upon them in a moment; a majority who knew no better, voted for the motion of their presiding officer, and the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York was "declared closed" before the most important of the regular business of the meeting had been transacted, excepting the approval of some sections of the revised Constitution—(so called.) At the time the Rt. W. Brother Willard made that speech, he had been a Grand Officer nine years, and he undoubtedly knew, that the impression he conveyed to the country Brethren was false.

But the venom was disseminated through a portion of the body, and that terrible phalanx of "*three hundred*" who had maintained the Thermopylæ of the Grand Lodge were from that time doomed to destruction. The Past Masters of the city and vicinity of New-York might possibly at that time have reached half that number, and it would have required a day or two, at least, to have notified them; but to have collected them together from their business during a *day session* would have been utterly impossible, and there was, as above stated, but one city member present, not an officer, who could have left the meeting for that or any other purpose. The M. W. Alexander H. Robertson, the newly elected Grand Master, arrived a few minutes after the Annual Communication had been pronounced closed, and he immediately took the chair, ordered the door to be closed, and requesting the Brethren who remained to be seated, he despatched the Grand Pursuivant and Grand Tiler to request all the members of the Grand Lodge who could be found about the premises, to return and assist him in opening a Grand Lodge of *emergency*. At this moment the Rt. W. John D. Willard rushed into the room, approached the table in front of the Grand Master, rolled up the papers laying there, (amongst which was the revised Constitution, which had been spread out ready for immediate action,) and rushed out again. After some delay, the representatives of eleven country Lodges and one city Lodge, (myself,) took their seats.

The Grand Master opened the Grand Lodge; after which a solemn silence prevailed for some minutes, all feeling the necessity of reflection and calmness, as in the midst of some overwhelming calamity. At length the Senior Grand Warden, Richard Carrique, arose and addressed the Grand Master;—he lamented the events of the morning, he sympathized with the Grand Master, that the commencement of his administration should have been marked by so deplorable a transaction, and he assured him that HE at all events, would stand by him in the discharge of every duty.

A Committee Willard, to requesting to the Grand The Committee communication with that he had refused, tempt would be n ed, and on their M. Willard, who solemnity between and addressed the C acknowledge that t to deny it." But Chairman of the C under his charge, a ed and taken it: tha it to the Grand Ma was then proceeded the Annual Comm Previous to that tin the city brethren w through the State. T Master, who had on Brother Willard wh By the compact of 1 Master must be elect From 1827 to 1844, Lewis, had been select had really no cause standard of the Troja enough" cause to wi city Lodges, and they That purpose was turn Brothers Robertson at Annual Meeting, the f of his friends had solic and that although his he had consented, and feated, but that he shou plied that he also had under these circumstances year and should therefor off in harmony; but no 1844, that when the rev ed of by sections, the fin

A Committee was appointed to wait upon Deputy Grand Master Willard, to request his attendance, and return of the papers belonging to the Grand Lodge.

The Committee returned without him, and held a private communication with the Grand Master. (I afterwards was informed that he had refused to attend, unless he first had assurance that no attempt would be made to censure him.) The Committee again retired, and on their return were accompanied by the Rt. W. D. G. M. Willard, who on being announced, was received with great solemnity between two ranks of brethren standing. He advanced and addressed the Grand Master—"I am not prepared," he said, "to acknowledge that this is the Grand Lodge;—neither am I prepared to deny it." But changing his style immediately, he stated that as Chairman of the Committee on the Constitution, he considered it under his charge, and having forgotten it on retiring, he had returned and taken it: that he had now brought it back; and he then handed it to the Grand Master. The business necessary to be transacted was then proceeded with, but such as could only be transacted at the Annual Communication had to be laid over till June 1845. Previous to that time however, a new cause of complaint against the city brethren was discovered and propagated with industry through the State. They had elected the M. W. Br. Robertson, Grand Master, who had only served as Deputy one year, and had slighted *Brother Willard* who had served many years as a Grand Warden. By the compact of 1827, either the Grand or the Deputy Grand Master must be elected from the city, the other from the country. From 1827 to 1844, the two Grand Masters, Van Rensselaer and Lewis, had been selected from the country, and the country Lodges had *really* no cause of complaint, but those which followed the standard of the Trojan factionists, could make any matter "a good enough" cause to widen the breach between the country and the city Lodges, and they determined to elect their candidate in 1845. That purpose was turned aside by a private conversation between Brothers Robertson and Willard, in my presence. Just before the Annual Meeting, the former told Bro. Willard, that a large number of his friends had solicited him to serve again as Grand Master, and that although his health and business rendered it inconvenient, he had consented, and having consented he should not like to be defeated, but that he should not consent again. Brother Willard replied that he also had been solicited to stand as a candidate, but under these circumstances, he was perfectly willing to wait another year and should therefore not run against him. The election passed off in harmony; but notwithstanding the vote of the 7th of June, 1844, that when the revised Constitution should have been approved of by sections, the *final vote should not be taken till the following*

evening after it had been approved by sections, it was, as before, taken up, and on motion of Rt. W. J. D. Willard, was declared adopted, at a morning session, the city members, as usual, being absent and unsuspecting of such a breach of faith.

A motion was offered by W. Bro. Shumway to re-consider that vote, (evidently remembering the vote of 1844,) which was decided in the negative.

There were several parts of the general regulations of the new code which were known to be very disagreeable to the city Lodges, (and not desired by many in other parts of the State,) and some which they regarded as *infringements* on the compact, and they would have at least discussed them with ability and energy, and desired the opportunity of doing so, but were shut out by the management of their opponents.

On the same morning another extraordinary step was taken by the adoption of a Resolution, as an additional clause to the regulations, written by the Rt. W. John D. Willard, by which all resolutions operating as regulations, standing on the books, and not incorporated in the new code, were rescinded; thus sweeping away at once, all the legislative enactments of eighteen years.

Notwithstanding all these grievances were well known to have been planned and carried out by Bro. Willard and his intimate and confidential friends, such was the desire for conciliation, union, friendship and harmony, that in June, 1846, that Brother was elected Grand Master without opposition, although his previous course had made him many opponents, and many of the city members consented to fraternize with their country brethren in the election of the other Grand Officers of *their selection*. Few indeed in the city knew *then* how the influence of "midnight caucuses and a seal of secrecy upon the lips," had been brought to bear on them, nor did they perceive, as the partizans of John D. Willard did, that it would be necessary for the accomplishment of their purposes, they should have a Grand Secretary who would be a pliable instrument in the hands of the Master. Such an one was elected. No sooner was Grand Master Willard firmly seated in the Oriental Chair, than he began a new system of operations for the perpetuation of his power. He and the Grand Secretary carried on their operations in concert; the Deputy Grand Master, Rt. W. Bro. Phillips, residing in the city of New-York, and visiting the Grand Secretary's office daily, as had been the custom of his predecessors and of Grand Master Robertson, soon found that he was only to be the D. G. M. for the Lodges in the city of New-York. That with the Lodges out of the city he was not to interfere, nor to be *consulted even* respecting them. The G. Master assumed the novel position of being always *present*, although residing 160 miles away from the place

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where the Grand Lodge was held and the records kept. The D. G. Master was not advised respecting the granting dispensations to new Lodges or the revival of the old ones in the country, and during two years, in which time many country Lodges were brought into existence, he never issued but one dispensation for that purpose; but G. Master Willard and his Grand Secretary, went to work and formed new Lodges, and granted dispensations to revive old ones, with unsparing hands. The large proportion of those which voted in the affirmative, on the pretended "amendments," are the very Lodges (with some honorable exceptions,) brought into existence within the past two or three years through the exertions of G. M. Willard. His object in the careless issue of dispensations is now apparent. The D. G. Master submitted in silence for two years, to the insults offered him, trusting that time would remedy his grievances, but after the re-election of G. Master Willard, and G. Secretary Boyd, he found it impossible longer to support either, in consequence of their singular behaviour. The G. Secretary although directed by the D. G. Master as was his duty, to pay the money as he received it over to the G. Treasurer, held on to it to the end of the quarter, and all confidence in him was lost, from the manner the business of his office was performed, as well as the complaints made against him from various quarters for inefficiency and unmasonic behaviour. Rt. W. Bro. Horspool and the G. Secretary of Alabama are referred to in reference to this charge, who can, if they will, explain this allusion to unmasonic behaviour.

In June, 1848, the Brethren who were aware of the error which they had committed in the elevation of the M. W. Bro. Willard to the Chair, believing it would be for the interest and harmony of the Institution, to put another in his place; and as he had occupied it two years, he could not reasonably object to the election of another, especially as he had himself contemplated running against the M. W. Bro. Robertson, at the termination of his *first* year of service, they nominated the Rt. W. Isaac Phillips, (who had declined a re-election as Deputy) for that office.

Previous to that election, the W. John S. Perry, of Troy, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in the election this evening, in case where the vote is by ballot, the Grand Secretary be directed to keep an accurate account of the number of votes cast by the Officers or proxy, and Past Masters of each Lodge respectively.

On a ballot for G. Master, 364 votes were cast, of which the M. W. John D. Willard received 241 votes, and Rt. W. Isaac Phillips received 123 votes.

Of these, 184 votes were cast by members of Lodges from the country, and 166 by members of city Lodges, *as the poll list shows*.

The balance by Grand Officers, both of city and country, and notwithstanding the many city votes which were cast for Bro. Willard, it having been ascertained by the evidence of the poll list, that the country held the ruling power, he and his partizans determined to use it. Accordingly, on the following day, at the close of the *morning session*, the W. John S. Perry, of Troy, introduced the following :

"*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge approve of the following amendments to the Constitution, and give their affirmative vote thereto. And this G. Lodge do so far adopt and sanction the same, as it is in their power to adopt and sanction any amendment at one June communication.

Resolved, That said proposed amendments be appended to the published proceedings of this Grand Lodge, at the end, for the consideration of the Lodges, pursuant to the one hundred and sixth Article of the Constitution.

First Amendment.—In the fifth line of Article third, after the word "and," insert the words "also to the extent hereinafter provided for," so that the whole Article will read as follows :

This Grand Lodge shall be composed of all the Grand Officers, the Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Grand Secretaries, and Past Grand Treasurers, the Masters and Wardens, or the Representatives legally appointed of all the Lodges under its jurisdiction; and also, to the extent hereinafter provided for, the Past Masters by election, and service of one year in the Chair, of all such Lodges under its jurisdiction.

Second Amendment.—Add a new Article to the Constitution, to be numbered CVIII, in the following words, viz :

ARTICLE CVIII.

All Past Masters of Lodges under this jurisdiction, who shall have been duly elected and installed, and served one year in the Chair, and in good standing, shall be honorary members for life, of this Grand Lodge; and as such, shall be entitled to be present at its meetings and participate in its deliberations, but shall not as such, be entitled to vote. The Past Master of each Lodge who shall have last passed the Chair thereof, shall be an *acting* member of this Grand Lodge, and as such, shall be entitled to vote; so that each Lodge, by its officers or proxy, shall be entitled to three votes, and the last Past Master if present, to one vote, making four votes in all. And all provisions of this Constitution relative to voting, or the right of voting, by members of this Grand Lodge, shall be deemed to apply to acting members only, and not to honorary.*

These resolutions received the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, there being as usual, but a very few city brethren in the Grand Lodge. One of them however, solemnly admonished the Body in these words: "Brethren, beware what you are about." Upon which the Worshipful Bro. H. L. Palmer, of West Troy, sprung up and flippantly replied, "Oh! we know very well what we are about." The W. Bro. Tisdall strongly urged upon the Grand Lodge, (there being but *three city members* then in the room, besides himself,) the propriety of deferring any action on the proposed amendment until the evening session, when the city dele-

* The proposition to disfranchise the Past Masters, the Worshipful John S. Perry has stated, he intended to have introduced two years before he did, but was persuaded not to do so *at that time*, as the *proper time* had not then arrived.

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gation could be present, and their views heard in relation thereto. And *moved*—"That the consideration of the proposed amendment be deferred until 8 o'clock, P. M." But the motion was laughed at and negatived, without debate, and that was all the discussion that took place, although I have seen it stated that the subject was *fully discussed*.

Not satisfied with the movement thus made, Grand Master Willard appointed a *new Standing Committee*, which he denominated a "Committee on Finance," on which he appointed three brethren from the country, amongst which was the Worshipful John S. Perry, of Troy. What the object of this committee was did not appear, until their report was received, when it was evident, another encroachment on the "Compact" was designed—another blow to the fraternity in the city of New-York, and to the Grand Stewards' Lodge, to exhaust the funds of the Lodges by appeals for relief, and thereby break them down if possible. By the "Compact," it was made the duty of the Trustees of the permanent fund, "to invest all funds *over three thousand dollars, annually*, after paying Representatives, salaries and rent." The three thousand dollars was intended for contingent expenses, but *principally* for charitable purposes, which might be disbursed by the Grand Lodge, the Grand Stewards' Lodge, or their quarterly committees of Charity. That sum in the city of New-York, where there are numerous applications for relief daily made by Brethren and their families, from every part of the world, might be readily disposed of with a strict regard to a just and economical disbursement, and, as all the city Lodges know by sad experience of twenty years of struggle, that when the Grand Stewards have no funds at their command, the Lodges must be drained oft-times of their last dollar for the relief of distress. It was this which broke down many Lodges in this city during the reign of anti-masonry. The W. Bro. Perry's Finance Committee, however, disdained to consider the Compact or the necessary provision for the afflicted claimants on Fraternal ties. They made a close calculation of the money which would probably be left in the Treasurer's hands after the Representatives should have been paid, and although they knew that \$300 had been appropriated for a new suit of Regalia, and that the expenses of the ensuing year must be provided for, they recommended that \$700 of the amount in the hands of the Grand Treasurer be added to the permanent fund. Their calculation was *too close*, for when the Representatives had been paid, there remained unappropriated less than \$700. The resolution *could* not be carried into effect.

At the same Annual Communication an attempt was made to supersede the Grand Treasurer Brother John Horspool, simply because he was obnoxious to the *ruling party*, but the honest, upright brethren even of that *party* disapproved of it, because, they

said, "he performs his duty strictly, and gives his salary (\$75) every year to the Orphan Asylum Fund."

From this period, (June, 1848,) no movement, no arrangement of any kind was made in the city of New-York in relation to the measures taken by the supporters of the M. W. John D. Willard, and the W. John S. Perry, of Troy, to crush the influence and destroy the rights of the city Lodges and their Past Masters. But in October of that year a circular letter was received from West Troy, purporting to be sent by "a Committee appointed at Geneva, August 9, A. L. 5848. That circular gave the first information that any concerted general movement was designed to excite the fraternity in the State against the Past Masters. According to its own account of its parentage, it appears, that "a very large number of the Fraternity from various Lodges were assembled," and "being thus together, they availed themselves of the opportunity of advising with each other on the subject of the proposed amendments to the written Masonic Constitution of the State, relating to Past Masters. An informal meeting was held, and a resolution unanimously adopted approving of those amendments, and commending them to the favorable action of the Lodges; and it was also voted that a committee be appointed to issue a circular on the subject, to the various Lodges in the State."

Who attended that meeting of the Fraternity at Geneva? The Most Worshipful John D. Willard and his satellites from Troy. Did the M. W. John D. Willard attend the "informal meeting?" No. That would have been too open and straight forward a course, too unequivocal an evidence of his participation in the unholy war which was plotted there against the Masons of New-York, who, (to use his own words,) "proudly bore aloft the Masonic banner, and sustained the Masonic principles." *

It would have been incompatible with his dignity and honorable sense of propriety to have attended an "informal meeting." He had conferred honor enough for once on the men assembled on "that occasion," and they had too delicate a sense of propriety to press his attendance, especially as "the Grand Master had not fully made up his mind on the subject." He, however, did not find it incompatible with his dignity and honorable sense of propriety to write afterwards from day to day to the Grand Secretary for the materials out of which that "circular" was concocted. A circular in which there is not a page, nay, scarcely a paragraph, which is not deceptive. *Presumptions, garbled extracts, ifs, plausible suggestions, insinuations, appeals to political prejudices, and positive falsehoods*, only, perhaps, to be detected by those well

* See his Report on the Grand Lodge of Vermont, June, 1848.

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And who signed that circular? Sixteen Brethren. Ten of whom belonged to Lodges which either fell beneath the storm of anti-masonry, or were not in existence during its career. And of the others, some who were not present at the "informal meeting" at Geneva, who did not even know of that meeting, nor of the design or existence of the "circular" till it was brought to them in "proof," with a solicitation for endorsement.

That circular aroused the Fraternity in the city of New-York and other parts of the State, who were opposed to the proposed measure, and a meeting of the Masters and Past Masters of Lodges was called at the Howard House, on the 31st of October, 1848. At that meeting the roll of the Lodges was called by the Grand Secretary Boyd, and there were found present, 78 Masters and Past Masters of Lodges.

That meeting was regularly organized, the business stated by the chairman was, "to deliberate on the course of action necessary to be taken, in relation to the proposed amendments to the Constitution, and to take into consideration a circular, issued by certain members of the Grand Lodge, in relation to and favoring a proposition to disfranchise Past Masters in that body, in violation of their INALIENABLE RIGHTS, and at variance with justice, wisdom and policy.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were UNANIMOUSLY adopted:—

"Whereas, at the last Annual Communication of the M. W. Grand Lodge, the first attempt was made, in the form of an amendment to the Constitution, by members of the Grand Lodge, representing either themselves or Lodges out of the city of New York, to deprive Past Masters of Lodges of their rights as members of the Grand Lodge, purposely reserved in the solemn Compact unanimously agreed to as "a fundamental law of the Grand Lodge never to be disturbed," by the Representatives of Two hundred and twenty-eight Lodges, assembled on the 7th June, A. L., 5827;

And whereas, it is now apparent, from a circular recently issued by certain Brethren, members of the Grand Lodge, that it is their intention to endeavor, by a majority vote, either of Lodges or individual votes, to carry the same into effect;

And whereas, in the opinion of this meeting, it is not in the power of the Grand Lodge to carry out the proposed measure, save by the unanimous consent of the whole Fraternity of the State, even if it were wise, prudent, reasonable and expedient to do the same, without violating the Compact of 5827; therefore,

1st. Resolved, That we are utterly opposed to the proceedings intended by the proposed amendments to the Constitution, offered at the Annual Communication in June last, by the W. JOHN S. PERRY, and which received the affirmative vote of a majority of the few members of the Grand Lodge at the moment assembled, because we deem them unreasonable, unwise, and inexpedient, in violation of the good faith involved in the Compact of 5827, calculated to excite disunion, and cause a prostration of that good feeling and

harmony which ought ever to exist among the members of the Fraternity, and destructive to the prosperity of the Institution.

2d. *Resolved*, That the attempt to carry into execution by the force of a majority vote in the Grand Lodge, or by the vote of Lodges, the proposition of the W. JOHN S. PERRY, will be considered as the desire and intention of the portion of the members favoring the same, to dissolve the Compact, and withdraw from the Ancient and Regular Masonic Jurisdiction of the State.

3d. *Resolved*, That one Past Master from each Lodge in the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and on Staten Island, be appointed an Executive Committee, and to address a circular letter to every Lodge, Officer, and known member of all the Lodges in the State, setting forth the injustice and impropriety of the proposed measure, and the fearful consequences that must result to the harmony and union of the Craft, if persisted in.

4th. *Resolved*, That the members of every Lodge in the State, and particularly within ten miles of the New York City Hall, be, and they are requested to agitate the subject, so that it may be fairly understood by every member of the Order.

5th. *Resolved*, That every Lodge in the State, and particularly within ten miles of the New York City Hall, opposed to the contemplated proceeding as offered by the W. JOHN S. PERRY, and believe that it cannot be submitted to with honor or propriety, and especially by reason of its disturbing the Compact, be requested to appoint a delegate to meet in Convention, at the city of New York, on the 29th of January next, at the Howard House, at 7 o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of agreeing upon a course of action to be pursued at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, to preserve the rights of their Past Masters, reserved under the Compact, the harmony of the Grand Lodge, and the influence and interest of the Fraternity of the State.

6th. *Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be forwarded with the circular letter mentioned in the third Resolution, and special attention called to the appointing of a delegate to meet in Convention on the 29th of January next.

The following Brethren were appointed the Executive Committee under the 3d Resolution.

Lodge No. 1.

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" 68,

Elias W. Nexsen,

Lewis Feuchtwanger,

William H. Milnor,

Balthasar Kreisler,

Nicholas Guille,

Nathaniel F. Waring,

Robert Roberts,

Nathaniel D. Plum,

John Solomons,

John Satterthwaite,

Lawrence Powers,

William J. Surre,

John C. Allstadt,

John Harron,

Daniel H. Van Sice,

John W. Hudswell,

J. Ben. Wood,

Sewall Fisk,

James McGrath,

Lodge No.

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Lodge No. 69,

" 86,

" 94,

" 106,

" 137,

Wolf K. Frank,

Charles F. Bauer,

James Herring,

Samuel Gelston,

William C. Burnet,

Knickerbocker, U. D., Lewis Ziegler.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

EDWARD COOK, Chairman.

E. G. TRIQUET, Secretary.

These proceedings were signed by every Brother present, excepting three, and were subsequently approved by 25 Masters of Lodges and Past Masters who were not at that meeting.

Immediately after that meeting, communications were received from various parts of the country, stating that with the circular from West Troy, called the "Geneva circular," three other papers had been sent to the country Lodges, and furnishing copies of the following as one of those papers, which also explains the others.

"MEMORANDUM.

"The Committee appointed at Geneva on the 9th of August, 1848, respectfully make the following suggestions.

1. The provision as to amendments of the Constitution will be found in the 106th Article of the Constitution, page 51. It provides as follows, viz:

"No amendment to this Constitution shall be made, or have any effect, until the same shall have had the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge at two successive June Communications, *unless in addition to the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge at one June Communication, it shall have received the affirmative vote of a majority of the Lodges within this jurisdiction.*"*

The proceedings of the Grand Lodge, in June, as to the proposed amendments, will be found on the 51st and 52d pages of the Grand Lodge proceedings, which have lately been published.

It is considered most proper, and every way most desirable, that the further action to be had on the amendments be by a direct vote of the Lodges on the amendments themselves.

2. Caution should be used that all the proceedings of each Lodge, in relation to the amendments, be strictly regular; and uniformity among the Lodges, as to the form of proceedings, is desirable, so far as may be convenient. If the accompanying preamble and resolution express the views of your Lodge, we respectfully recommend their adoption in the precise form they are sent. They have been well considered, and are sufficient.

3. We advise that the amendments be acted on at a regular stated meeting of your Lodge; though this is not indispensably necessary.

4. The proceedings of your Lodge on the subject should be entered at length in the record of Lodge proceedings; including the amendments.

5. We advise that at least the names of the Officers present and officiating, be entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the evening.

6. The Lodge should be open on the Master Mason's degree, when the business is acted on.

* The reader's attention is particularly requested to the delusion of this "garbled quotation," it being only a *part* of the section of the article referred to. I shall refer to it again hereafter.

7. Let the blanks in the certificates as to the votes of your Lodge (which we enclose) be filled up with the name and number of the Lodge, the town, village or city, and the date. If the preamble and resolution should be adopted *unanimously*, let that word be inserted in the certificates in the proper place. Let the Lodge seal be affixed to the certificates; and let them be signed by the Master, Wardens and Secretary. If for any reason the Signatures of all those officers *cannot* be obtained, let the certificates be signed at least by the Secretary.

8. We respectfully request that the certificate of the vote of the Lodge be executed in duplicate; and that after your Lodge shall have acted on the subject, one certificate be sent *immediately* by mail, either to Doctor Enos Barnes, Geneva, Ontario County, or to H. L. Palmer, Esq., West Troy, Albany County: and that the other certificate be sent by your Secretary to the Grand Secretary's Office, at some time before the first day of April next. Executing the certificate in duplicate will guard against possible miscarriage: and the Committee also desire to have as early information as possible of the action of each Lodge.

9. We respectfully recommend that your Lodge act upon the subject at as early a day as it shall, in its own judgment, have sufficiently considered what action it is proper for it to take.

This document, with its "garbled extract," had not been sent to any of the Lodges in the southern part of the State, and was evidently *intended to be kept secret as long as possible from the Lodges in the City*, to convey a *new idea* to the Lodges in the country, and to press the passage of an alteration of an *old Regulation* and the adoption of a *new one*, by the votes of single Lodges, without their being "at last duly enacted with the consent of the majority of the members present," at the June Communication following.

In consequence of this information, the executive committee held a meeting on the 11th November, 1848, and agreed to publish and forward to all the Lodges in the State the proceedings of the meeting held on the 31st October, in advance of the *circular*, which by that meeting they had been ordered to prepare. The same was afterwards republished with the *circular*.

In accordance with the request of the meeting of the 31st of October, a convention of Lodges, by their delegates, was held on the 29th of January, and by adjournment, on the 10th of February 1849, in which every Lodge in the city of New-York and vicinity (except Holland Lodge, to which the Grand Secretary, Boyd, belonged,) was represented, and several from other parts of the State.

Their proceedings were published and sent to all the Lodges and are as follows:—

AT A CONVENTION OF LODGES under the jurisdiction of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the ancient and honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New-York, held in the City of New-York, on Monday evening, January 29, A. D. 1849, at the Howard House, in pursuance of a request made at

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jects of this Convention, and the great importance of temperate but firm and decided action, submitted a series of resolutions, which, upon his motion, were referred to a Committee for consideration, and report at a subsequent meeting of the Convention. The following Brethren were appointed said Committee:—

Rt. W. ISAAC PHILLIPS,	of No. 26,
Rt. W. WM. WILLIS,	of No. 2,
W. JOHN A. KENNEDY,	of No. 106,
W. EDWARD COOK,	of No. 1,
W. R. AEBY,	of No. 54.

Rt. W. W. WILLIS then addressed the Convention upon the question of depriving Past Masters of their rights as members of the Grand Lodge, exhibiting in the clearest manner, from the original Charter and other Masonic records, the rights and franchises of Past Masters as members of the Grand Lodge, and the false premises and inconclusive reasoning of those who are in favor of depriving them of these rights, and destroying the organization of the Grand Lodge.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this Convention do now adjourn to Saturday evening, the 10th of February, at half-past 7 o'clock.
Adjourned.

SATURDAY EVENING, February 10, A. L. 5849.

Present—The Officers and Lodges as before, with the addition of Mount Vernon, No. 3, W. F. G. TISDALL, (proxy)
Trinity, . . . No. 12, W. B. KREISCHER.
Washington, No. 21, W. T. G. HEPBURN,
Painted Post, No. 117, W. J. B. SATTERTHWAITE, (proxy)
(Rt. W. JAMES HERRING, proxy for St. Patrick's No. 4, was absent from the city.)

The following report from the Committee on Resolutions was received, read, fully discussed, and *unanimously* adopted, the question taken separately on each resolution, and then on the preamble and resolutions together.

The Committee to whom was referred the Preamble and Resolutions offered at the Convention of Delegates of Lodges, held on the 29th of January last, respectfully recommend the same for adoption, as amended, and which are as follows:—

WHEREAS, by the original Charter or Warrant of the Grand Lodge of this State, granted in the year 1781 by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of England, in ample form assembled, (according to the old Constitutions of Masonry granted at York by Prince Edwin, A. D. 926, and of Free Masonry 4926,) the rights and franchises of Past Masters as members of the Grand Lodge are clearly defined and expressed; AND WHEREAS, from that period

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the present, these rights, privileges and franchises have never been surrendered, but, on the contrary, on every occasion when assailed, carefully and scrupulously preserved, reserved, guarded, and maintained as inviolable; And whereas, an attempt was made at the annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in the form of an amendment to the Constitution, to destroy the rights of Past Masters as members of the Grand Lodge, therefore,

Resolved, As the deliberate opinion of this Convention, that the proposition made in the Grand Lodge at its last Annual Communication to disfranchise a component part of that body, is not only at variance with the Articles of Union or Compact unanimously agreed to at the Union of the two Grand Lodges existing in this State in the year 1827 as a fundamental law, but in violation of the principles upon which the Grand Lodge was originally constituted and established, and as unjust and illiberal in its character as it would prove unwise and impolitic in its operation.

Resolved, That it is not in the power of one portion of the Grand Lodge to disfranchise another portion possessing the same rights, deriving its existence from the same source, and co-equal in all respects as a component part of the Grand Body.

Resolved, That the proposition made at the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge to destroy its composition and organization as it has existed from the period of its original Charter, and under the specified authority of said Charter, was, in the opinion of the Lodges represented in this Convention, for the purpose of eradicating that small portion of the Grand Lodge present at the time favoring and supporting the same, to dissolve (if possible) the Compact of 1827, and withdraw from the Ancient and regular Masonic jurisdiction of the State; and in the name and by the authority of the Lodges we represent, we do declare that any further attempt to enact or carry into execution such proposition, will be viewed by them as revolutionary.

Resolved, That the Lodges severally represented by us will be present at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge by their Officers and Past Masters, prepared, under all circumstances, to preserve the integrity of that Body, to maintain the compact of 1827, and the rights of Past Masters as they have existed from the first organization of a Grand Lodge in this State.

Resolved, that every Lodge approving of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, not represented in this Convention, is hereby requested to be represented by its Officers and Past Masters at the next Annual Communication, and also to communicate as early as possible to the President of this Convention its approval of these proceedings, and its determination to unite with the Lodges here represented, in maintaining the integrity of the Union of 1827, and

the rights of Past Masters as they were granted, specified and vested by the original and only Charter of the Grand Lodge.

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions and Preamble be forwarded to every Lodge in the State, with the proceedings of the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC PHILLIPS,
W. WILLIS,
R. AEBY,
JOHN A. KENNEDY,
EDWARD COOK.

NEW-YORK, February 10th, 5849.

On motion, it was further

Resolved, That a Committee of Seven be appointed to take charge of the business of this Convention—to act upon any contingency that may arise after its adjournment—to adopt such further measures as they may deem necessary to carry out its objects, with power to call the Convention again together if they think proper.

The following Delegates were appointed said Committee:—

Rt. W. W. WILLIS,	of No. 2,
Rt. W. I. PHILLIPS,	of No. 26,
W. J. A. KENNEDY,	of No. 106,
W. E. COOK,	of No. 1,
W. R. ROBERTS,	of No. 20,
W. F. G. TISDALL,	of No. 3,
W. J. B. WOOD,	of No. 66.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned.

J. BEN. WOOD, Secretary.

DANIEL WEST, President."

It is plain that in these transactions there was no concealment of sentiments, nothing equivocal, no underhanded manœuvering, no idea of a *separation* from the Grand Lodge of the State, no thought of organizing a *new* Grand Lodge; but, on the contrary, a determination to *maintain the rights of all the Lodges and all their members*, to maintain the organization of the Grand Lodge as *constituted and established by its Charter*; to maintain the *Compact of 1827 inviolate*, and thus preserve the *original* Grand Lodge, the LANDMARKS of the Order, and the Constitution of Ancient York Masonry. And this is what they believe *they have accomplished*, notwithstanding all the malignant and vindictive *slanders* which have been sent forth to the Masonic world by their antagonists.

Early in February, 1849, a second circular letter was issued from the Geneva Committee, *through the West Troy post-office*. In that circular they affected to treat the proceedings which had taken place in New York as merely the actions of "*New York Past Masters*." It says the unexpected grounds upon which the New York Past Masters, both at their meeting and in their address,

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have seen fit to rest their opposition to the amendments, are so entirely without just foundation, and, at the same time, so dangerous, that they consider it their duty once more to address the Brethren, and they proceed throughout that circular to carry out their design of *prejudicing the minds of their readers by falsehoods, misrepresentations and garbled quotations*; they attempt to degrade the Mother Grand Lodge from which our Masonic existence was derived, (of which they ought to have been as much ashamed as at an effort to degrade *their own mothers*;) they occupy nearly two pages of their pamphlet in extolling "the high and conclusive authority" of the old book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England, published in 1723; and sneer at "the writer of the Past Masters' address," who they say "either from a strange want of knowledge in himself, or a strange belief in the ignorance of others, has thought proper to allude to it slightly as a work of no authority, and as a Constitution merely of 'Modern Masons,'" when, in truth, "the Past Masters' address," as they are pleased to style it, *makes no allusion to that book whatever*.

They say that the New York Past Masters rest their opposition to the amendment on the ground "that it is in conflict with their own 'vested' and 'inalienable' rights; that they claim they have a 'vested,' 'inherent,' and 'inalienable' right *to be rulers over the whole Fraternity of the State forever*." This is *misrepresentation*. The Past Masters have set up no claim *to be rulers over the whole Fraternity of the State*: they simply claim their rights and franchises as members of the Grand Lodge, and *not* as rulers over the whole Fraternity.

This circular, however, on its own misrepresentation, calls this a claim "bold and startling," and says that,

"If the Lodges by their vote on the amendments sanction this claim, then the prosperity of our Order is forever blasted; its fate is forever sealed; for public opinion will not uphold and sustain any society based upon principles so entirely at war with the institutions of our country. No anti-masons ever promulgated a slander upon our Order which was so well calculated to injure and destroy it as *this* which has been published by these Past Masters of the city of New York."

Of whom was the author of *that* circular writing?—Of the Past Masters of the city of New York. And of what does he accuse them?—Of publishing a slander against the Order better calculated to destroy it than any slander ever promulgated by any anti-masons. *I call this insolence* to the Past Masters of the city of New York, and to the Lodges which espoused their cause as their own; and it is more than insolence—it is *falsehood*.

The author of the second circular issued from West Troy selects a passage from the Ahiman Rezon, (and he might have selected

a hundred passages as pointless,) and then says: "The Ahiman Rezon, which the New York Past Masters so much trust in and commend, is directly in point and conclusive to establish the fact that according to ANCIENT USAGE, Past Masters were NOT members of the Grand Lodge."

I pronounce this also a falsehood; and will show other quotations from that authority in their proper places, to prove it a falsehood.

The author of that Circular says, "the New-York Past Masters refer to the Ahiman Rezon of Pennsylvania, as good authority in this matter. And so it is. That Ahiman Rezon, contains as part of itself, fairly and honestly copied, and as we have published it, the 'old regulation' from the book of 1723. It thus declares, that by *ancient usage* of the Masonic Fraternity, Past Masters were not members of the Grand Lodge," and thus *leave it to be inferred* by the innocent and unsuspecting brethren of this State, that there was *nothing more* in the Ahiman Rezon of Pennsylvania, on the subject. Our Pennsylvania brethren, I trust, will not omit examining their own editions of the Ahiman Rezon of 1783 and 1826, for themselves. I call the above extract a "*garbled extract*" from the Ahiman Rezon of Pennsylvania, and will show other extracts, not so pointless, in the proper place.

By such artifices the brethren of this State have suffered themselves to be misled, as to the true state of the question at issue. They trusted the men who appeared to espouse the cause of the country Lodges, and probably, never for a moment doubted their truth, their honesty, or their motives. Many also in our city of New-York, have been deceived by the same misrepresentations, and I cannot doubt that in *other places*, prejudices have been very strongly excited against our course at the final action, by the same species of cunningly devised, fabulous, yet ingenious fabrications.

The above will suffice as examples of the *manner* in which the author or authors of those circulars from Troy, abused the confidence of our country brethren, and, indeed, of all others who have continued to support the cause of the late Grand Master and Grand Secretary. Many of the respectable brethren who lent the influence of their names to those circulars, would not have done so, I am sure, had they followed the injunction to "search the Scriptures" for themselves.

It is proper to mention that several of the Lodges of the State sent forth circulars in pamphlets or letters, expressive of the views taken by them on the question before them, for or against the proposed amendments. And the Grand Secretary Boyd, published a copy of the original Charter, with his certificate attached, that it was "an *exact copy* of the ORIGINAL CHARTER of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York." [See Appendix A.]

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At the quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge, on the 6th of March, 1849, a member of the Executive Committee, which as before mentioned, was appointed on the 10th of February, preceeding, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted and ordered to be published, and sent forth to the Fraternity of the State.

**"GRAND LODGE.
QUARTERLY MEETING.**

New-York, March 6, A. L. 5849.

R. W. Isaac Phillips, P. D. G. M. offered the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were read:

"WHEREAS, At the last Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, a proposition was made in the form of an Amendment to its written Constitution, which if adopted and allowed, would have the effect of disfranchising and depriving Past Masters (one of the Classes of members composing the Grand Lodge,) of their right to vote in this Body; thus virtually changing and revolutionizing its composition as it has existed from the period of its original Charter; And WHEREAS, such proposition is without warrant in said Constitution, at variance with all the principles upon which this Grand Lodge was originally constituted, has ever been maintained, and is now established; in direct violation of and dangerous to the safety and permanency of the Articles of Union or Compact, unanimously agreed to at the Union of the two Grand Lodges existing in this State, in the year 5827, and destructive to the peace and harmony of this Grand Lodge; And WHEREAS, any departure from these settled and fixed principles, would enable Past Masters with equal propriety, when in the majority, to take from Masters or Wardens of Lodges, their right to vote as members of the Grand Lodge, or in like manner, would enable the Wardens to cut off the rights of Masters of Lodges whenever occasion or convenience might seem to them to require such proceeding. Therefore,

Resolved, That it is not in the power of one portion of the members of the Grand Lodge to disfranchise another portion, possessing the same rights, deriving its existence from the same source, and co-equal in all respects, as a component part of the Grand Body.

Resolved, That the proposition offered at the last Annual Communication, to deprive Past Masters of their right to vote in the Grand Lodge, is unconstitutional and revolutionary, and that any action tending to its consummation, either by the vote of Lodges, or by any vote of the Grand Lodge, would be void and of no force or effect.

Resolved, That it is our unalterable determination to maintain the Union of 5827, whatever may be the action of the Lodges on the proposed Amendment, by preserving the rights of Past masters as they exist, under the said Compact of Union, and as they have existed from the first organization of the G. Lodge of this State.

Resolved, That any action that will destroy the right of Past Masters to vote as members of the Grand Lodge, would be at variance with sacred obligations—and any assumption of power, however specious, not contained and clearly expressed in the Articles of Union, of June 5827, would be in violation of good faith.

Resolved, That while we fully admit that this Grand Lodge, when duly convened, has the power to make laws, to regulate and PRESERVE the rights of its members, to direct the manner and form they shall be exercised and enjoyed, we utterly and unqualifiedly deny its power or authority to abrogate or DESTROY any of those rights, excepting for just cause.

Resolved, That we will use all honorable and justifiable means to protect our Past Masters in the due exercise and enjoyment of their right to vote in the Grand Lodge, as well as to defend, to the best of our ability and means, the integrity of the Union of 5827; and for this purpose we do earnestly and affectionately call on and urge those Lodges who have already declared in favor of changing the present composition and organization of this Body, to reconsider, annul and withdraw the same—and those yet having the matter under consideration, to forbear giving in their approval, and thus preserve the good faith, harmony and prosperity of the M. W. Grand Lodge of the State of New-York.

Resolved, That the Rt. W. Grand Secretary cause the foregoing Preamble and Resolutions to be printed forthwith, and immediately thereafter, a copy be sent to each Grand Officer and Lodge under this jurisdiction."

On motion to accept and adopt the above Preamble and Resolutions, the Rt. W. Oscar Coles, D. G. M. presiding, declined putting the question, declaring that he considered it *unconstitutional* for the Grand Lodge at its Quarterly Session to act on any measure which interested the whole Body; when his decision was appealed from, and on the question being taken, his decision was reversed. The question was then taken on accepting and adopting the Preamble and Resolutions, which was carried unanimously.

Extract from the Minutes.

R. R. BOYD, *Grand Secretary*."

Meantime, the Rt. W. Deputy Grand Master, Oscar Coles, a Past Master of Manitou Lodge, No. 106, in the city of New-York, examined the records of the Grand Lodge, for his own satisfaction, and convinced himself and the Grand Secretary Boyd, that notwithstanding all that had been said and written on the Charter having been laid aside, it still was vital. From the draft of a letter in the hand writing of the Grand Secretary, Boyd, now before me, I make the following extracts:

"Rt. W. Bro. Coles sends you by this mail, a lengthy report respecting the present platform of the Grand Lodge, and having been present when many, if not most of these examinations were made, upon which his opinion is formed, I agree fully with him in the conclusion he has arrived at, and am decidedly of the opinion, there is nothing in the record, that changes the Grand Lodge from the provincial character it originally possessed.

"We propose, as soon as the river opens, to pass a day with you in relation to this matter. I defer any suggestion for the future, but this I will say, I think the way is clear to place the whole matter before the fraternity of the State, in a manner entirely satisfactory and not compromise any dignity individually or collectively, and this I would recommend. It will be the means of allaying much angry feeling that at present exists, and *in my opinion, strengthen the present PARTY.* * * *"

"There will be an abundance of time to *promulgate any ORDER necessary in reference to this*, and sincerely hope you may see it in the same light we do but the opinion expressed is known only to ourselves, (Bro. Coles, yourself and myself.) * * *"

In due time, about the 1st of April, the promised visit was made, but unfortunately, (or fortunately, as time will determine,) the M. W. Grand Master was not to be turned from his purpose. Certain parties selected, afterwards, a number of city brethren with whom

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an attempt at negotiation was made, whether by authority, or consent of the Grand Master I never heard, but the conditions proposed, up to the afternoon of the 5th of June, were such as could not be entertained by honorable men for one moment.

Some ten days *before the annual meeting*, the Rt. W. Bro. Boyd endeavored to hire the rooms occupied by the Grand Lodge, at the Howard House, at an advanced rent, but the proprietor having some twenty masonic bodies meeting in the house, declined, until as on former occasions, he was called upon by a committee from the Grand Lodge.

While the Lodges in New-York, Albany, Johnstown and other places, who were united in sentiment on the momentous question to be decided in June, remained perfectly tranquil, an active correspondence was kept up between the Lodges in other sections of the State. From Troy and Utica, parties travelled to neighboring Lodges, as friends *to assist them in their work*, and urge on the adoption of the mischievous resolutions. The Grand Secretary was kept diligently at the work of making partizans of visitors from other Grand Lodges, and in visits to and correspondence with particular Grand Officers of other States, to prejudice their minds and keep them in readiness for future use. I have in my office, some of that correspondence, which may be referred to hereafter, if necessary.

On the approach of the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in June last, the Grand Secretary notified the Masters of the Lodges in New-York, in a manner entirely unprecedented. They had always been notified to attend with their Past Masters and Wardens (at that season) *at 7 o'clock*, but on *this occasion*, they were merely informed that the annual meeting would be held at the Howard House, on *Tuesday Evening, the 5th of June*. At what *hour* on Tuesday evening, was evidently omitted with some design, but whether to take advantage of the city members by convening a party by secret notices at an earlier hour than customary, and have the Grand Lodge opened without them, or whether it was intended to defer the meeting to so late an hour as to afford an excuse for laying all business over, (especially the most momentous business, of the session) until the next morning, or to increase the excitement which already prevailed, no one could tell, and no one could obtain an explanation. The G. Secretary constantly refused to answer the Masters of Lodges who called on him to ascertain *the hour* at which they should notify their Past Masters and Wardens. Long before the hour of seven arrived, there was a large assemblage of members in waiting, and *at that hour*, the Grand Lodge room, which is not very large, was well filled, so that many who came late were unable to obtain seats, and the heat of the weather was oppressive.

In the following half hour the only principal Grand Officers who were present, were the Junior Grand Warden and the Grand Secretary.* The Grand Master did not make his appearance, and some uneasiness began to be manifest. The Junior Grand Warden was requested to take the Chair and organize the Grand Lodge, but he declined, observing that the G. Master was in the house, and would be there shortly. Under all their discomforts, the Body waited until nearly 8 o'clock, when their patience gave way, and a motion was made that the Rt. W. Bro. Willis take the Chair, (to which he was entitled as the oldest P. D. G. Master, which was at once responded to by all, apparently, who were not in the secret of the Grand Master's absence.

On this call the P. D. G. Master proceeded to the East, but had no sooner taken the Chair, than it was announced that the Grand Master was in the room, and he was immediately seen approaching the Chair, which was at once vacated by Bro. Willis, with a brief explanation.† The M. W. Grand Master needed no explanation. He had been near at hand, in a situation (as I have been credibly informed) where he could hear, and to some extent see, all that had passed in the Grand Lodge room, and when he found that the Grand Lodge was about to be opened without him, he also appeared amongst them. But still further expedients were resorted to, to *waste away the evening*; questions about the new Regalia, private conversations, and silence for some time, distinctly told to the assembly, that his *first move* in the game of life or death to the Past Masters had now been made. At length the Grand Secretary was directed to fill the vacant offices; and it being ascertained that all present were members, the Grand Lodge was opened. Next he was directed to call the roll of Lodges. Instead of doing what he had been directed, he first announced that the amendment to the Constitution proposed at the last Annual Communication, had been adopted by (a majority of) all the Lodges.‡ This most extraordinary act, of attempting to make an official announcement before the Lodges had been called, was unprecedented, and he was called to order by a member, whilst in the act of making the statement. The M. W. Grand Master in a

* The Deputy Grand Master absented himself, and the Senior Grand Warden was dead.

† There has been a statement put in circulation that the Rt. W. Bro. Willis on taking the Chair, "declared the session opened," and, "called on the Grand Secretary to call the roll of Lodges who declined," and that statement is *utterly untrue*. Brother Willis *had not time to fill the vacant offices*, before Bro. Willard made his appearance. If it had been true, Bro. Willard could not have entered without announcement.

‡ The announcement he actually made in his haste, was without the words "a majority of." I however give his speech, as he afterwards said, he intended it

most peremptory manner, called that member to order. The Grand Secretary then called the Lodges numerically, and immediately thereafter a member called for the reading of the minutes of the last quarterly meeting. But the Grand Master in an angry tone called that brother to order, as, he said, he was about to address the Grand Lodge. Immediately a motion was made, and seconded by many brethren, "that the reading of the minutes of the last quarterly meeting be now proceeded with," which was the usual order of business. The Grand Master imperatively called them to order, and declared the motion out of order. From this decision of the Chair, an appeal was made to the Grand Lodge, but he declared the appeal out of order, and that he would entertain no motion nor allow any one to speak until he had addressed the Grand Lodge, and that he would maintain the position he had taken with the utmost firmness. The members of the Grand Lodge knew that the motion was constitutional, in order, and according to the usual course of the business in the Grand Lodge of this State, and they manifested as much firmness in the maintenance of the position they had taken to have the minutes read, as he to suppress them, and with fully as much of respect and dignity. He, however, repelled the efforts of many Brethren to induce him to put the motion, or the appeal, to the vote of the Grand Lodge, and only replied with heavy blows of the Gavel and orders to "sit down!"—or "come to order!" Wearied and disgusted with his conduct, the Senior Grand Warden was called upon to put the question on the appeal to the Grand Lodge. The S. G. Warden rose in his place and in a respectful manner, inquired of the Grand Master whether it was his determination not to submit the question of appeal to the Grand Lodge: to which the Grand Master replied, that it was. The Senior Grand Warden then put the question on the appeal, and it was sustained without one dissenting vote.

Notwithstanding this unequivocal evidence of the wish of the Body, that the motion to read the minutes should be put to the vote, Grand Master Willard still refused to entertain it. The Senior Grand Warden then put the question on the reading of the minutes, and it was adopted without a dissenting vote. But the Grand Master positively refused to allow the minutes to be read, and much excitement ensued. The Grand Secretary being called upon by the S. G. Warden, to read the minutes, also refused, and the excitement increased. The Grand Master here gave utterance to expressions of anger, and after making allusions in the highest degree offensive to the city brethren, he terminated his speech with the expression, that he hoped they would not get up there "ANOTHER ASTOR HOUSE RIOT." This was certainly capping the climax of all offensive speeches which were ever uttered in a Grand Lodge by

a Grand Master to his constituents. And yet not one of them had moved from his place, when they found themselves treated with contempt, and an attempt made to hold them in subservience to his dictation by the strong hand of the official rank which they themselves had conferred upon him, and of which they could deprive him at their will; and they had only given way to the expression of their feelings—every man to his neighbor. Not one disrespectful word had been uttered to him. Some had found it *necessary* to address him in a loud tone of voice, because he himself *made it necessary* by the noise he continued to make with his heavy gavel upon the mahogany table. No man retorted upon him an offensive word. Those who were opposed to the course which the M. W. Grand Master had taken, and was then taking, felt the high responsibility of their position. They knew they were engaged in a high and holy cause, the cause of *truth and justice*, and the *rights of men*, against the efforts of a demagogue, and as it appeared, a *despot*, who had surrounded himself with a faction through whose agency a large portion of unsuspecting and confiding brethren in this State, had been deluded to contend against brethren who had always acted towards them in good faith. The recollection of that Grand Annual Communication, has diverted me for a moment, from the progress of the narrative. I return to the point of digression.

The Grand Master after his "animated speech," called the W. Wm. H. Shumway to the East and requested him to read the "Rules of Order" of the Grand Lodge, which were listened to in silence. That silence was preserved for some time; when the Grand Master sent for the Junior Grand Warden, Bro. Phillips, and enquired of him whether, if he ordered the minutes to be read, he thought the Grand Lodge would listen to his address afterwards. Bro. Phillips thought they would. The Grand Master then asked if the minutes were read, if he (Bro. Phillips) would *pledge himself* that no further motion should be made on them, but to approve them. Bro. Phillips replied, that he had no control whatever over the matter, and could not hold himself responsible for the action of any other, but he would promise to use his influence to that effect. At the latter part of this private conversation, Rt. W. Bro. Willis was present, and on their return to their places, the minutes of the quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge were read and approved, and the minutes of the Grand Stewards' Lodge were read and disposed of as usual.

The Grand Master then delivered an address, partly written and partly, as he said, unwritten, in the course of which he declared that the amendments to the Constitution offered at the last June Communication, had received the affirmative vote of 56 Lodges, "and are an integral part of the Constitution;" he also announced the number of new Lodges, which had been constituted under his

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administration, and that nearly all of these had given affirmative votes on the amendments, but he did not announce the name of any Lodge which had so voted. He communicated the decision of the Rt. W. Richard Carrique, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge; recommended as an amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, the disfranchisement of all Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Wardens, Secretaries and Treasurers; and, after allusion to the labors and responsibilities of the office of Grand Master, declined being again a candidate for re-election to that office.

The Rt. W. Junior Grand Warden then inquired if he correctly understood the M. W. Grand Master, as declaring, that notwithstanding the decision of the G. Lodge, "that such amendments were unconstitutional and revolutionary, and that any action of the Lodges upon the same, would be void and of no force or effect;" the said proposition depriving Past Masters of their rights as members of the Grand Lodge, was now the law governing the Body over which he was presiding? To which Grand Master Willard answered, "It certainly is." Whereupon, the Junior Grand Warden replied, "Then, Sir, by virtue of the decision made by the Grand Lodge, at its last Quarterly Communication, the Body over which you preside is not the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York as originally constituted, and as has ever been maintained," and he (the Junior Grand Warden) called upon those members of the Grand Lodge who were determined to maintain its integrity according to the original constituting, and in accordance with the articles of Union of 5827, to continue the constitutional organization of the Grand Lodge, and on motion being duly seconded and carried, the

Rt. W. Past Deputy Grand Master William	G. Master.
Willis, was called upon to preside as	
Rt. W. Isaac Phillips, P. D. G. M.	as D. G. M.
W. Edward Cook, of No 1,	as S. G. W.
W. E. B. Hart, of No. 26,	as J. G. W.
Rt. W. James Herring, P. G. S.	as G. Sec.
W. John Solomons, of No. 23,	as G. Treas.
Rt. W. John Mansfield	remained G. Marshal.
Rt. W. John W. Hudswell	" G. Stand. Bearer.
Rt. W. Ebenezer Wadsworth	" G. Sword Bearer.
W. Daniel West,	" G. Stewards.
W. E. G. Triquet,	
W. Daniel Wishart,	
W. William H. Walling	" S. G. D.
W. Rudolph Aeby	" J. G. D.
W. William Boardman	" G. Pursuivant.
W. Greenfield Pote	" G. Tiler.

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The Grand Secretary, p. t., was then directed to call the Lodges, when some delay occurred, until one of Brother Marsh's Masonic Registers was forwarded by some Brother, by the hands of the Grand Marshal. On the call of Lodges being made, the following responded by their Representatives and Past Masters:—

	Lodge,	No.		No.
St. Johns'	"	1	German Union Lodge,	54
I. R. Arch	"	2	Hohenlinden	56
Mt. Vernon	"	3	La Fayette	64
St. Patrick's	"	4	Richmond	66
Trinity	"	12	Montgomery	68
Temple	"	14	Naval	69
L'Union Francaise	"	17	Washington	85
Fortitude	"	19	Pythagoras	86
Abrams	"	20	Schodac Union	87
Washington	"	21	Strict Observance	94
Adelphi	"	23	Manitou	106
Albion	"	26	Prattsville	119
Mt. Moriah	"	27	Anglo Saxon	137
Benevolent	"	28	Knickerbocker	U. D.

A motion was then made, and carried unanimously,—“That the Grand Lodge do now proceed to elect its Grand Officers for the ensuing year,” which was done in a Constitutional manner, and with the following result.

Rt. W. ISAAC PHILLIPS, of New-York,	M. W. Grand Master,
“ “ JOSEPH CUYLER, of Johnstown,	R. W. D. Grand Master,
“ “ THOMAS D. JAMES, of Albany,	S. G. Warden.
“ “ DAVID BOOTH, of Schodac,	J. G. Warden.
Rt. “ JAMES HERRING, of New-York,	G. Secretary.
“ “ JOHN HORSPOOL,	G. Treasurer.
“ “ JOHN COFFIN,	G. Chaplain.
“ “ WILLIAM BOARDMAN,	G. Pursuivant.
“ “ GREENFIELD POTE,	G. Tiler.
“ “ JOSEPH M. MARSH, }	
“ “ ROBERT ROBERTS, }	2d Class
“ “ N. F. WARING, }	Grand Stewards.

The Rt. W. P. D. G. M. William Willis presiding, placed in the Oriental Chair, the Grand Master elect, who returned thanks for the honor conferred, and the Grand Lodge proceeded to other business.

After which the Grand Lodge was adjourned until the next evening at 7 o'clock.

While some part of the before mentioned proceedings were in progress, a scene was enacted near the Grand Secretary Boyd's table which I did not witness, nor hear of at the time, and there-

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fore narrate from information of those who *were witnesses*, in which one who has not heretofore been named in this paper bore the principal part. The W. Brother Jarvis M. Hatch, Master of Utica Lodge, at Utica, who has the reputation of being "one of the most promising young lawyers in the West," had made himself very busy in the course of the year in obtaining friends to the "proposed amendments to the Constitution" by his representations; by bringing to life in a marvellous manner, some that were on the "point of death;" by writing a circular in the shape of a Report by a Committee of Utica Lodge, and sending it to the Lodges of the State; by interesting himself for some of the Masonic periodicals of the States; by flattering the Deputy Grand Master; encouraging the Grand Secretary Boyd, and marking out for him the course which he ought to pursue; who had *advised* the Grand Secretary to *retain in his hands the funds received until the election had passed, no matter why*; who had promised him that the country would be well represented, that from most of the Lodges the Master and Senior Warden would attend, and "from one to three Past Masters as freemen and witnesses," and in some cases the Junior Warden also, and therefore to "have no fear," but "let the whirlpool whirl," and "in June" they would "still the waters." This worthy Brother, at some time in the course of the evening of the 5th of June, sprung upon the table in front of the Grand Master and attempted to address the Grand Lodge, but was prevented; he afterwards undertook to take care of "the funds," by spreading a paper under the Grand Secretary's table and *quietly sliding* the box containing the cash of the Grand Lodge under the table also, and after wrapping it up in the paper and putting it under his coat he attempted to get out of the Grand Lodge room. The whole movement had attracted the attention of one used to marking *suspicious movements*. Being stopped, in his efforts to "retain the funds," he struck a Brother in the face, which drew blood, and with the tin box peeled the skin from the fingers of that Brother's hand, which, after three months, have not yet recovered. *Here Brother Boyd interposed, and himself took the box from the W. Brother Hatch and delivered it to the representative of the Grand Treasurer, to whom he had been in the habit of paying the Grand Lodge funds.* Out of this affair, in which it appears no one was to blame but the chief actor himself, a terrible story has been concocted and sent forth to the Masonic world, in which there is not one word of truth; and the report of the Grand Stewards' to the Grand Lodge, subsequently made, shows the absurdity of the story, that a single cent in the box alluded to, was the individual property of R. R. Boyd.*

* See Appendix B.

It is a most fortunate thing for the *Grand Lodge*, whatever some of the Brethren may *now* think of it, that the cash book, ledger, &c., remain at the Howard House.

The *Grand Lodge*, as before narrated, having adjourned until Wednesday evening, the 6th of June, re-assembled at the *Grand Lodge* room, and was called to order. The minutes, which have been published, will have informed all the *Grand Lodges* of what subsequently took place. It will be sufficient to say here, that the *Grand Officers* elect, who had not before been installed, were then installed. The *M. W. Past Grand Masters Bruen and Merchant*, of the *Grand Lodge of New-Jersey*, being in attendance, installed the *M. W. Isaac Phillips* as *Grand Master* of the *Grand Lodge of the State of New-York*, who was proclaimed by the *Grand Marshal* and congratulated by the representatives of the foreign *Grand Lodges* and by the faithful *Fraternity* of the State then present.

Thus the intrigue and sophistry, which for eight years had been used to effect the overthrow of the original organization of the *Grand Lodge*, was signally defeated; still the *Grand Lodge* of this State is established upon a constitution formed by the representatives of *Lodges* upon a charter, as in June, 1787, it was declared to be; still the compact of 1827 is held inviolate; may peace and concord be soon restored.

The *Grand Lodge*, of which I have the honor to be the *Grand Secretary* for the 18th year, claims to be the true and *original* *Grand Lodge* of the State of New-York, and the *Lodges* which assemble under its banner vindicate and justify themselves in the course they have taken, under the compulsion of circumstances beyond their control, in maintaining the organization of the *Grand Lodge*, as originally constituted by Charter from the *Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of England*, on the following grounds:—

1st. That the *Rights* and *Franchises* of their *Past Masters* as associated members of the *Grand Lodge* of this State, with the *Grand Master* and *Masters* and *Wardens* of the particular *Lodges* of the jurisdiction, are of great antiquity and are *Inherent Rights* and *Franchises*.

From the best historical records, it is by *Masons* universally believed to be a well-attested fact, that on the re-establishment of *Masonry* in *England*, the *Most Ancient General Assembly*, or *Grand Lodge*, was founded in *England* in the year 926, under the patronage of *Prince Edwin*, the king's brother. "For in all the *old Constitutions* it is written to this purpose, viz:—That tho' the ancient *Records* of the *Brotherhood* in *England* were most of them destroyed or lost in the wars with the *Danes*, who burnt the *Monasteries* where the *Records* were kept; yet king *Athelstan*, (the grandson of king *Alfred*,) the first annointed king of *England*, who translated the *Holy Bible* into the *Saxon* language, when he had

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brought the land into rock and pease, built many great works, and encouraged many Masons from France and elsewhere, whom he appointed Overseers thereof: they brought with them the Charges and Regulations of the Foreign Lodges, and provided with the King to increase the wages.

That Prince Henry, the King's Brother, being taught Geometry and Masonry, for the love he had to the said Craft, and to the honorable principles whereon it is grounded, purchased a *Free Charter of King James*, his Brother, for the Free Masons, having among themselves a constitution, or a power and freedom to regulate themselves, to amend what might happen amiss, and to hold a *Quarter Communication* in a *General Assembly*. That accordingly Prince Henry summoned all the *Free and Accepted Masons in the realm* to meet him in a *Congregation* at York, who came and formed the *Grand Lodge* under him as their *Grand Master*, A. D. 1626. That they brought with them many old writings and Records of the *Craft*, some in Greek, some in Latin, some in French and other Languages; and from the contents thereof, they framed the *Constitutions* of the *English Lodges*, and made a law for themselves to preserve and observe the same in all time coming."

From the *Albion Mason of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania*, (Ed. 1825, p. 41.) I extract the following as a connecting link in the historical record necessary to this argument.

"Hitherto (1646) all the English Lodges were independent of each other though governed by the same rules and regulations, but paying much deference to the Grand Lodge which occasionally convened at York. This Grand Lodge was composed not of Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters in their *representative capacity*, but of *all the Brethren*, who congregated together whenever the interests of the Craft rendered it necessary." And again from the same work:—"The ancient charges were the *only standard* for the regulation of conduct, and *no law was known in the society which those charges did not inculcate*. To the sword of the Fraternity at large, in *general meeting assembled*, all Brethren were subject, and the authority of the Grand Master never extended beyond those general meetings."

"The Masons in London and its environs finding themselves deprived of Sir Christopher Wren, and their annual meetings discontinued, resolved to cement themselves under a new Grand Master, and to revive the communications and annual festivals of the society." With this view, the only four Lodges in being in the south of England at that time, with some *other old Brethren*, met at the Apple Tree Tavern, in February, 1717, and having voted the oldest Master Mason then present into the chair, constituted themselves a Grand Lodge, *pro tempore*, in due form. On the 24th of

June of the same year the assembly and feast were held, when the oldest Master Mason and Master of a Lodge having taken the chair, *the Brethren*, by a *great majority of hands*, elected Mr. Anthony Sayer Grand Master of Masons for the ensuing year, who was forthwith invested by the said *oldest Master*, installed by the *Master of the oldest Lodge*, and congratulated by the *Assembly*, who paid him homage. The Grand Master then entered on the duties of his office, appointed his Wardens, and commanded the *Brethren* of the four old Lodges to meet him and his Wardens quarterly in communication, enjoining them, at the same time, to recommend to *all the Fraternity* a punctual attendance on the next *annual assembly and feast*.

As the Annual General Assemblies of the Fraternity were the highest Masonic legislature and tribunal *previous* to 1717, so they *continued to be afterwards* composed of the *whole Fraternity* who chose, or could make it convenient to attend, from the Grand Master to the youngest entered apprentice; and although in the first book of Constitutions published by the Grand Lodge of England, in 1723, Past Masters are not expressly named, they cannot be for that cause excluded, for the whole body of the Fraternity being entitled to be present and to vote, the Past Masters were necessarily included. And this, to me, seems to be a sufficient reason why they were not expressly named in that edition of the "Constitutions."

That the rights of the Fraternity to sit in the Grand Lodge of England were retained after its revival in 1717, may be seen by reference to the book of Constitutions above mentioned, and those who have not access to it, will find the same in Preston, who says:—

"The officers of the old Lodges, however, soon began to discover, that the new Lodges being equally represented with them at the Communications, might in process of time, so far out-number the old ones as to have it in their power, by a majority, to encroach on, or even subvert the privileges of the original Masons of England, which had been centered in the four old Lodges with the concurrence of the Brethren at large; *therefore*, they very wisely formed a code of laws for the future government of the Society, to which was annexed an additional clause, which the Grand Master for the time being, his successors, and the Master of every Lodge to be thereafter constituted, were bound to preserve inviolate in all time coming. The conditional clause referred to runs thus:—

'Every annual Grand Lodge has an inherent power and authority to make new regulations, or to alter *these*, for the *real benefit* of this *ancient Fraternity*; *provided always*, that the old landmarks be carefully preserved; and that such alterations and new regulations be proposed and agreed to at the third quarterly Communication preceding the annual grand feast; and that they be offered also to the perusal of *all the Brethren* before dinner, in writing, *even of the youngest apprentice*; the approbation and consent of the *majority of all the Brethren present* being absolutely necessary to make the same binding and obligatory.' This remarkable clause, with thirty-eight articles preceding it, all of which are printed in the first edition of the Book of Constitutions, were

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approved and confirmed by one hundred and fifty Brethren at the annual assembly and feast held at Stationers' Hall, on St. John the Baptist's day, 1721, and in their presence subscribed by the Master and Wardens of the four old Lodges on the one part; and by Philip, Duke of Wharton, then Grand Master; Theophilus Desaguliers, M. D. and F. R. S. Deputy Grand Master; Joshua Timson and William Hawkins, Grand Wardens, and by the Master and Wardens of sixteen Lodges which had been constituted between 1717 and 1721, on the other part."

There are named four Grand Officers, and the Masters and Wardens of four old and sixteen new Lodges, making a total of sixty-four signers of the *one hundred and fifty voters* at that meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1721. Whether the remainder of the 150, being 86 in number, a majority of the whole by whom the Regulations and this additional clause were "*approved, and confirmed,*" were Past Masters, or Brethren of inferior rank, is of no consequence, it being evident that *Past Masters had a right to be at that Grand Lodge and a right to vote.*

Scarcely, however, had this compact been signed and the book ordered to be printed, (in 1721,) when innovations began to be made upon it, and upon what were then understood to be landmarks of the order. The old Masons became disgusted, and in a few years after separated, *on account of those innovations*, organized according to the Ancient York Constitutions, and from them the Grand Lodge of this State derived their Charter, and holds lineal descent.

As the Masters and Wardens of the particular or subordinate Lodges are the Representatives of the Lodges, so the Past Masters are the Representatives of the Fraternity at large in Grand Lodge assembled, and the plea which has been made by the advocates for ousting the Past Masters, or depriving them of their franchises in the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, that it would be more "*republican,*" is not only unmasonic, but as anti-republican as it would be for the Senators, representing States, to say to the immediate representatives of the people in the Congress of the United States, "*you shall no longer vote, because we alone are the true representatives of the Confederate States.*"

From the original organization of the Grand Lodge of New-York, the Masters of Lodges have always been elected by the members of their Lodges, with the full knowledge, that when those officers had passed the Chair, they would remain members of the Grand Lodge, so long as they continued members of a Lodge in the State: and the Masters of Lodges in this State, when taking upon themselves the cares and labors of office, looked forward to the rights and privileges of membership for life in the Grand Lodge, as the height of their ambition. The rights and franchises of full and

equal membership in the Grand Lodge, have been possessed by them from the earliest date of authentic masonic history, the Past Masters of the Lodges of this State, have inherited them from their English Brethren, they have been recognized and guaranteed to them, not as new grants, favors or courtesies, but as possessions by right of election and service of one year in the Chair, by the Regulations of the Grand Lodge of this State from its origin to the present time. They are therefore *inherent*.

On the side of those who have advocated a change in the organization of the Grand Lodge of New-York, it has been said in a circular published by a committee professing to have been appointed at Geneva, in this State, on the 9th of August, 1848.*

"It is not material to inquire when or where the provision was first introduced, which now prevails in this State, and some other Masonic jurisdictions, making Past Masters, as such, members of the Grand Lodge. The little attention we have directed to this point inclines us to believe that, like many other innovations, it stole upon the fraternity unawares, and first came quietly in as a matter of 'courtesy.' However that may be, it is certain that in the Grand Lodge of England it had not been introduced in 1746, nor in 1756, nor in 1766, nor in 1786; as will be seen by reference to the masonic Constitutions published in each of those years respectively, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England; copies of which are in the library of the Grand Lodge of this State. It is certain that Past Masters were not members of the Grand Lodge of England, when the Grand Lodge of New-York separated from its mother and became an Independent Grand Lodge."

The writer of that circular by a little further examination of the books referred to by him, might have pronounced it equally "certain" that the Duke of Athol had never been Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, at either of those dates, because his name is not to be found in either of the books referred to; and yet the Duke's name stands written at the head of the Charter of the Grand Lodge of New-York, "in the seventh year of his Grand Mastership;" he was Grand Master in Scotland *also*, in 1777 and 1778, and continued to be Grand Master of the Ancient Craft in England, until 1813.

To say that *this inquiry is not material*, is to turn the attention from a most important point, and it no doubt answered the purpose intended; but to declare that between 1746 and 1786, embracing the period when the Grand Lodge of New-York was founded, "that Past Masters were not members of the Grand Lodge of England," and to attempt the proof of that assertion by reference to books published by a body of Masons who were utterly disowned

* That Circular bears strong internal evidence of having been prepared by Grand Master Willard, and other evidence which I have seen, leaves no doubt of that fact.

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by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Masons of England, (the mother Grand Lodge of our own,) was certainly betraying great ignorance, or shameless effrontery. With the Grand Lodge in London, to whose Books of Constitutions the Geneva Committee referred, the Grand Lodge of New-York never had any connection or intercourse, until after it was merged in "the united Grand Lodge of England, in 1813," and it only remains for me to quote from "the True Ahiman Rezon," or Book of Constitutions of our own mother Grand Lodge, such passages as prove the rights of Past Masters in that Grand Lodge, and the errors of our opponents.

"Rules and Regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge during the time of public business:—That no brothers be admitted into the G. Lodge, but the immediate members thereof, viz. the four present, and all former Grand Officers, the Treasurer and Secretary, the Masters, Wardens and PAST MASTERS of all regular Lodges, except a brother who is a petitioner, or a witness in some case, or one called in by motion." Ahiman Rezon, page 125. Also, A. R. Maryland Ed. 1826, page 61. "All Past G. Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, and PAST MASTERS of warranted Lodges on record, whilst they continue members of any regular Lodge, are likewise by *courtesy as well as by custom*, considered members of, and admitted to vote in all the Grand Lodges.* (See Ed. A. Rezon, 1783, published by order of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, page 59, and in old copy of A. R. page 108. New-York Book of Con. Ed. 1801, page 35.) "If a single brother is deputed to represent all the officers of any particular Lodge, (and consequently such Lodge itself,) in the Grand Lodge, he ought not to be under the rank of a PAST MASTER, or one who hath otherwise passed the Chair in some regular Lodge." [A. R. Ed. 1783, page 60.] "All matters in the Grand Lodge are determined by a majority of votes, *each member having one vote*. [Ib. p. 61.]

"In case the new Grand Master when nominated and chosen as above, cannot attend at the time appointed for his installment, he may be installed by proxy, on signifying his acceptance of the office, but such proxy must be either the last or a former Grand Master, or *else a very respectable PAST MASTER*." [Ibid. page 69.]

"All Grand Officers, present and past, take place of every Master of a Lodge, and the present Grand Officers, take place of all Past Grand Officers. Nevertheless, any of them may waive their privilege, to do honor to any eminent Brother and PAST MASTER, whom the Lodge may be willing to place in the Chair on any particular occasion." Ibid page 77.*

PAST MASTERS were amongst the most active members of the Grand Lodge of England when the Union was effected, in 1813, *and they are members at the present time*, notwithstanding all that has been written and said to the contrary, as the following will show.

Extracts from the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of England, Ed. 1847. "Every brother regularly elected and installed as Master of a

* The Geneva Committee in their second letter from Troy, omitted these paragraphs, amongst their quotations; the reason for which could not be mistaken. They intended to deceive, by garbled quotations and misrepresentations, and it is amongst the things most seriously to be regretted, that several of the brethren who signed it were the first deceived, and lent their names to deceive others.

Lodge, who has executed that office for one year, shall so long as he continues a subscribing member, of any Lodge, rank as a PAST MASTER, and be a member of the Grand Lodge. Subscription as a member of any Lodge is sufficient to preserve his rank and rights as a PAST MASTER, but after having for twelve months ceased to subscribe to any Lodge, he shall no longer enjoy the rank of a Past Master, or continue a member of the Grand Lodge." Page 18.
 "All matters are to be decided by a majority of votes, each member having one vote." Ibid, page 25.

The rights and privileges of those PAST MASTERS are inherent; "and," (to use the language of a distinguished Grand Officer of that jurisdiction,) "an attempt to disfranchise such brethren in England, so far as London is concerned, would cause a complete disruption of the Craft, I feel sure."

2dly. The Rights of the PAST MASTERS of Lodges, as associated members in the Grand Lodge of this State, with the Grand Master and Grand Wardens, and the Masters and Wardens of the particular or subordinate Lodges thereof, are VESTED rights.

In addition to the claims resting upon usage for the exercise of the right to sit, and vote, in the Grand Lodge of this State, the Lodges associated in the maintenance of the Grand Lodge as originally constituted claim for their Past Masters a right by CHARTER from the Grand Lodge of Ancient Masons of England; and they hold, That for MASONIC PURPOSES, a CHARTER from a Grand Lodge is as efficient, valid and indisputable as a CHARTER from a sovereign prince, parliament, or legislature for the establishment of a corporation for civil purposes. In the investigation of this point, it seems proper to make the inquiry, what is a Charter?

A Charter is a written (or printed) instrument vesting certain rights, privileges, powers, franchises, &c. in persons or parties to act collectively as a body, and that body is called, therefore, a corporation. "The privileges and franchises granted to a private corporation are vested rights, and cannot be divested or altered except with the consent of the corporation, or by a forfeiture declared by the proper tribunal."*

The rights, privileges and franchises granted by Charter from the Grand Lodge of England, in September, 1781, were perpetual to the parties named therein, and their legal successors—they have never been divested nor altered—nor have they been declared forfeited by any tribunal, nor has any cause ever been given for complaint of a want of "due respect" to the Grand Lodge by whom said Charter was granted, which is the only condition upon which its perpetuity rested, and if that "due respect" had not been paid after the revolutionary war, the rights vested by the Charter, would have remained secure.

* Chancellor Walworth.

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The political annals of our country furnish examples to the point. Rhode Island and Connecticut, when converted into States, found it unnecessary to alter the nature of their Charter governments, and continued the same forms in all respects, *except the nominal recognition of the King's authority*, until 1818, when Connecticut made some minor changes and adopted a formal Constitution. Rhode Island however remained satisfied with the Charter of Charles 2d, from which it was only found necessary to *expunge the reservation of allegiance*.*

The Brethren who resisted the attempt in 1821-2, to remove the Grand Lodge from this city, did so avowedly on the ground that it was here located "by patent." And on the same ground they now plant their opposition to the disfranchisement of the Past Masters in the Grand Lodge of this State.

The Charters of several of the literary institutions of our country are English Charters, and have been pronounced by the highest tribunal in the land as valid and vital as before the separation from the British Empire.

The City of New-York holds many of her irrevocable privileges under her Charter of 1730, amongst which are jurisdiction over the North and East rivers, to low water mark on the opposite shores, the right to establish ferries thereon : &c. &c.

Chancellor Kent, in his commentary on the charter of the city of New-York, says, "it may not be amiss to state here, once for all, that it is an acknowledged and settled principle, that no vested right of property, whether it belongs to private individuals, or be in the shape of *a corporate franchise*, can ever be lawfully taken away without some default or forfeiture, to be ascertained upon a fair trial, and pronounced by *judicial* decree. The English statute of Magna Charta established as a great principle, the sanctity of rights, and privileges then existing, or thereafter to be lawfully procured ; and that principle was intended to be of general and perpetual application. It provides that the city of London and all other cities should have all their liberties and free customs ; and that no *freeman* should be disseized of his *freehold or liberties*, or free *customs* but by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land. Corporate franchises in this country rest on a basis which ought to be at least as solid as *Magna Charta*, for they are founded on *grants which are contracts*, and 'no State,' says the Constitution of the United States, 'can pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts.'"

As the rights of property or franchises conferred by Dutch or English Charters to individuals or corporations in this country previous to the revolution, were beyond the power of the grantors to recall or question when the independence of this nation was recognized, and those rights and franchises have been oft-times by the legislatures and legal tribunals of the country declared valid ; so, *the Masonic rights, privileges and franchises granted by the*

* View of the Constitution of the U. S. of America, by William Rawle L. L. D.

Charter from the Grand Lodge of England to the Past Masters of this Masonic jurisdiction ("together with their lawful associates in Grand Lodge assembled,") *are as valid now as during the revolutionary war.*

Chief Justice Marshall, in one of his elaborate opinions in the Supreme Court of the United States, says:

"A Corporation is an artificial being, invisible, intangible, and existing only in contemplation of law. Being the mere creature of law, it possesses only those properties which the *charter of its creation confers upon it*, either expressly, or as incidental to its very existence. These are such as are supposed best calculated to effect the object for which it was created. Among the most important are immortality, and, if the expression may be allowed, individuality; properties, by which a perpetual succession of many persons are considered as the same, and may act as a single individual. They enable a corporation to manage its own affairs, and to hold property without the perplexing intricacies, the hazardous and endless necessity of perpetual conveyances for the purpose of transmitting it from hand to hand. It is chiefly for the purpose of clothing bodies of men, in succession, with these qualities and capacities that corporations were invented, and are in use. By these means, a perpetual succession of individuals are capable of acting for the promotion of the particular object, like an immortal being."

And that upright and inflexible man, Chief Justice Holt, even in the days of the tyrannical and charter-breaking Stuarts declared that

"It is agreeable to reason and the rules of law, that a franchise should be vested in the corporation aggregate, and *yet the benefit of it redound to the particular members*, and to be enjoyed by them in their private capacity. When the privilege of election is used by particular persons, *it is a particular right, vested in every particular man.*"

Blackstone says that *franchise* and *liberty* are used as synonymous terms, and after naming other *liberties* and *franchises*, he says,

"It is likewise a franchise for a number of persons to be incorporated and subsist as a body politic with a power to maintain perpetual succession, and do other corporate acts; *and each individual member of such corporation is also said to have a franchise or freedom.*"

It follows then, that each individual PAST MASTER has rights in the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York by the Charter from the Grand Lodge of England, which the other members of that Body have no right to disturb. Under that Charter the G. Lodge of New-York commenced the accumulation of property. That property is now of great value. The PAST MASTERS with their confreres are the guardians of that property and the dispensers of the charities of that body. As guardians of that property, the Past Masters by being deprived of their elective franchise would be deprived also of all power to protect that property whether in the permanent fund or in the hands of the Treasurer; the first five Grand Officers being Trustees under the Compact of 1827. The safety of the permanent fund and other property may depend on

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the exercise of the right of suffrage by the PAST MASTERS, and of that right, and the rights which depend upon it they can be deprived only as individuals in a legal masonic manner by a legal suspension or expulsion.

3d. That the rights and franchises of the PAST MASTERS of the Grand Lodge of New-York, as co-equal members with the Grand Officers and Masters and Wardens of the Lodges of the jurisdiction, have been *recognized, recited and acknowledged by the laws of the Grand Lodge* from its establishment to the present time, as the printed copies of the regulations show.

And if those rights and franchises were held *by no other tenure*, (which is denied) that would be sufficient to render any attempt to deprive them of those rights and franchises wrong, unjust and tyrannical; un-brotherly and anti-republican. It would be a common law title. If the rights and liberties of the Past Masters of New-York rested *only* on the regulations adopted by the Grand Lodge, in 1785, recognizing their rights, which I am of opinion no one can maintain, those regulations have been many times repeated, the Past Masters have constantly exercised those rights and franchises, they have been found useful to the masonic institution in this State, and their repeated use has become a custom, and so becomes in name and nature the common law.

When the Grand Lodges of England united in 1813, it was agreed that of the Past Masters who might *thereafter regularly pass the Chair*, only one at a time, to be delegated by his Lodge, should have the right to sit and vote in the United Grand Lodge; so that *after the decease* of all the regular Past Masters of any regular Lodge who had attained that distinction at the time of the union, the representation of such Lodge should be by its actual Master, Wardens and one Past Master only. *That body respected* the rights and privileges which the PAST MASTERS up to that time had possessed in the Grand Lodge of ancient masons, (if not in the other) and it would have been well if the Grand Master of this State and his friends had followed the example.

But even in the United Grand Lodge of England the rights and franchises of Past Masters were extended to all alike, soon *after the union*, and remain to this day.

In the Grand Lodge of Ireland, no attempt has ever been made to invade the rights of Past Masters, they being in that country as in England, recognized equally with the Masters and Wardens as the representatives of their Lodges.

As an appeal has been made by the revolutionists to the principles of republicanism—"in our own republican State of New-York," I may with no impropriety quote from the Constitution of the State the following passage, viz:

"No member of *this* State shall be disfranchised or deprived of any of the rights and privileges secured to any citizens thereof, unless by the law of the land, or the judgment of his peers." Article 1, Bill of Rights, Section 1.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio, in September 1848, received a report from a committee which shows their regard for the rights and privileges of those who have been declared members of that body, by its own laws, even after those laws had been altered. The committee say :

"That previous to the adoption of the present Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, all Past Grand Wardens were *ex-officio* members of the Grand Lodge: *Therefore*, being in the enjoyment of the franchise at the adoption of the present Constitution, they could not legally be deprived of a right which had accrued to them under a pre-existing code."

The Grand Lodge of Ohio approved of the report, and thereby exhibited their respect for legal rights, the title of fraternity, and the liberal spirit of the age, neither of which were regarded by the late Grand Master Willard and his coadjutors.

4th. That the legitimacy of the Grand Lodge of the *State* of New-York as constituted, has been recognized and acknowledged in an uninterrupted fraternal correspondence by the mother Grand Lodge of England, from the year 1783, to the 3d of June 1813, the Duke of Atholl, *being up to that time Grand Master*; at which time the correspondence was interrupted by the war between the United States and England, as is evidenced by the documents received from that Grand Lodge on file, and now present before me: Which correspondence was resumed after the union of the two English Grand Lodges, (which took place in December 1813,) when the Duke of Sussex was elected Grand Master, up to the 4th of October, 1818, since which the correspondence has been less regular.

5th. That the Past Masters as one of the classes of members constituted by Charter (which together with the Constitution of the Mother Grand Lodge, is the only organic law of the Grand Lodge of New-York,) never forfeited their rights and franchises by neglecting to use them, or by any abuse thereof, as it was correctly maintained in one of our country Lodges, where it was said, "It is of no consequence to us how many PAST MASTERS are in New-York, they never have, so far as we are informed, abused their powers, and *if there were a thousand there*, until they do something wrong, and to the injury of the Institution, we have no right to condemn them. It will be time enough to consider what should be done after they have done a wrong; and we have no right to disfranchise them on the pretence, *that they have the power to do wrong*, for all men have *the power to do wrong*."

6th. That by the present "General Regulations," or statutes of the Grand Lodge of New-York, no *additional* powers, rights, privileges or franchises are conferred upon the PAST MASTERS of the State to those which they possessed previous to the adoption of said

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"General Regulations" or Statutes, from the year 1781, to the year 1849, nor are any additional powers, rights, privileges or franchises now claimed. It is considered, that the rights and franchises of the members of the Grand Lodge are not derived from the present regulations or statutes of the Grand Lodge, any more than the rights, powers, privileges and franchises of the States of this Union are derived from the Constitution of the United States, which Constitution was founded upon concessions from the separate States and the free and independent citizens thereof, of rights and powers which they *previously possessed*.

The rights of the PAST MASTERS in the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York being held by lawful succession must be regarded as *sacred rights*.

"And if any public measure were proved mischievously to affect them, the objection ought to be fatal to that measure, even if no CHARTER at all could be set up; but if these rights are further affirmed and declared by *express covenant*, if they are clearly defined and secured against chicane, against power and authority by *written instruments* and *positive engagements*, they are in still better condition; they partake not only of the sanctity of the object so secured, but of that solemn *public faith itself* which secures an object of such importance."

Such was the opinion of Mr. Burke, as delivered in the British parliament, in 1783; and if masonic rights are to be held sacred—if pledged masonic faith is to be regarded as a solemn covenant between men, that opinion is as applicable to the present case, as to that in which it was spoken.

7th. That the rights and franchises of the Past Masters of the Lodges in the State of *New-York*, can be divested only by their own consent; or can be taken away from *individual* Past Masters by impeachment, trial and conviction for some offence against the general laws of the Institution which would deprive them of all their masonic rights; and if they by their own consent gave up their franchises in the "Grand Lodge assembled," they could not thereby divest their successors, because the Charter guaranteed those franchises to them and *their successors "for ever."*

8th. That in consequence of an *attempt* only to deprive Past Masters of their rights by an alteration of the regulations of the Grand Lodge, connected with sundry other grievances artfully introduced by the Grand Lecturers and their supporters, (foiled, as in the present instance, by an explanatory resolution in March of that year,) a schism was produced in June 1823, and that the Lodges in the city of New-York and those which were united with them in other parts of the State, in the maintenance of the *original organization* of the Grand Lodge of this State, were *sustained by the Grand Lodges of our Sister States*. This is proved by the correspondence on file in my office.

9th. That when the "COMPACT" of Union was made between

the two Grand Lodges in this State, in June 1827, the rights and franchises of Past Masters, as *members* and *voters*, were recognized and recited in the regulations at that time existing in both bodies; they were recognized by the *articles of Union* or "*COMPACT*;" and in the revised regulations agreed to at that time, based upon the *existing Regulations* and "*Compact*."

It will not be disputed, I presume, that previous to June 1827, the Lodges in the western part of this State were involved in difficulties, which finally overthrew them, and nearly the whole of those which were associated with them in the before-mentioned country Grand Lodge.

On the other hand the original Grand Lodge in the city of New-York, had maintained their position, increased the number of their Lodges both in city and country, held some \$16,000 of funds, the Charter and Records, and enjoyed the respect and confidence of all the Grand Lodges. By a union with their unfortunate Brethren, who in the days of their majority power, had endeavored to crush them, they had nothing to gain—nevertheless, on an application from them they consented to negotiate with them, again to trust them as brethren, to cast their lot in with them, and once more with them form *one* Grand Lodge for the State—upon the *COMPACT*, "*or contract*" or "*articles of agreement*," which were ratified by both Grand Lodges on the 7th of June, 1827. That *Compact had a reference*, to existing laws in one or the other, or both the contracting parties, and were intended to put an end to the dissention which had been caused by the struggles of parties previous to the separation in 1823, by *compromises* and *mutual concessions*.

What were the concessions and compromises?

The country Lodges had always had the right to be represented by their officers or by proxies. The proxies had been generally residents of the city of New-York. Those Lodges complained that their own officers could not attend the Grand Lodge in the city of New-York on account of the *expense*. But when they were persuaded by the influence of the Grand Lecturers, that *their* services were the only advantage they enjoyed by their connection with the Grand Lodge, they held conventions at Canandaigua and at Batavia to consolidate their powers, to *remove* the seat of the Grand Lodge to the country, or form a new Grand Lodge in the west, and they attended by concert at the meeting of the Grand Lodge, in June, 1821, in sufficient numbers to carry their point so far as to vote themselves the payment of their expenses of that attendance, amounting to nearly \$1,300, and to *provide pay* for themselves for future attendance.

By thus providing a remedy for their own complaint, the country Brethren created the grievance complained of by those in the City;

inasmuch as that the payment of large sums of money for attendance, was without precedent in any Grand Lodge in the world. By the Compact of 1827 the concession was made on one side and gained on the other, "that Representatives should be paid as heretofore."

The City Brethren and their associates in the country opposed to radical changes, had complained of the contemplated removal of the Grand Lodge from the city of New York, where it was located by the Charter or Warrant, a proposition for which had been introduced in Grand Lodge, September, 1820, by Rt. W. Ebenezer Wadsworth, and only postponed. The Compact terminated that difficulty by declaring "that there ought to be but one Grand Lodge in the State of New York and that it ought to be held in the city of New York."

In the city of New York, large amounts of money had been for many years dispensed by the Grand Lodge and the Grand Stewards of Charity for the relief of distressed Brethren and their families, and larger sums were required as the population and immigration from foreign lands increased. The country Brethren, in 1822, proposed and designed to adopt a law, "That the Grand Stewards of Charity should not draw on the disposable funds for any amount exceeding the annual sum of one thousand dollars to be applied for charitable uses." That sum was not more than *half the amount required at that time* for charitable uses; and the passage of such a law would have thrown a burden upon the city Lodges, which would have involved them in perpetual difficulties. The Compact removed that subject of controversy by authorizing the Trustees "to invest all funds over *three thousand dollars* annually, after paying Representatives, salaries, and rent."

The City Brethren and their associates were decidedly opposed to the laws adopted at the meeting, above-mentioned, in June, 1821, whereby one Master or Past Master might be appointed the Representative of *five* Lodges, and *five* Past Masters. The Compact terminated that grievance by concessions on both sides, it being agreed that in future one Master or Past Master *might* represent more than one Lodge but should *not represent more than three* Lodges, and that Past Masters should *not* be represented by proxy. Here is a distinct recognition of the rights of Past Masters as members of the Grand Lodge, as none but members of the rank of Master or Past Master in the Grand Lodge of New York, can or ever have been permitted, to act as the Representatives of Lodges by proxy; beside the distinct admission that Past Masters, as members, might exercise their rights and franchises, *if present*, as before.

But that is not all. Although, as I have mentioned, by the revised regulations proposed in 1822, Past Masters were to be left out

as members of the Grand Lodge, yet, five days *after the schism had taken place*, the words "PAST MASTERS" were reinserted by the country Grand Lodge, and that amendment, with other modifications was *retained by that body* while it continued *its separate existence*, and PAST Masters were recognized as *members to the date of the Union*. So, that when the union took place the rights of Past Masters were *equally recognized by the laws of both Grand Lodges*, and that distinguished expounder of the laws of equity, Chancellor Walworth, has laid it down as a rule, that

"A general law of the State where the contract was made, and which was in force at the making of such contract, is to be taken as part of that contract."

In addition to this, the regulations which were revised by the joint committee which formed the Contract or "COMPACT," (for the constitution was not altered,) framed the regulation which defined the composition of the Grand Lodge as it had been from the beginning. On these grounds the Lodges in the city and elsewhere manifested their sentiments by *refusing to vote* on the proposition of 1848 in their Lodges; and on these grounds the Grand Lodge at its quarterly meeting on the 6th of March, 1849, unanimously adopted the resolutions which are on page 33 of this letter.

10th. That *if*, according to any laws of the Grand Lodge of NEW-YORK, that body *had been competent* to divest the Past Masters thereof of their rights and franchises, it could *not* have been done by a *majority vote of the separate Lodges*, as Grand Secretary Boyd and Grand Master Willard declared *had been done*.

The book containing the written laws of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, on being examined with attention, by candid and intelligent Brethren, will be found to sustain this point.

The question, however, I conceive, may be very properly raised and answered in advance of this examination,—What is the difference between "Constitutions" and "Regulations?" Because judgment has to be pronounced upon the question whether it was the "Constitution" or a "General Regulation" of the Grand Lodge which was proposed to be altered or "amended."

1. What is a Constitution? I adopt the definition of Dr. Rawle, as being brief and explicit. He says, "By a Constitution we mean the *principles* on which a government is founded and conducted."* "Regulations" are "particular Rules" which direct *the manner* in which *those principles* shall be carried out.

The book containing the written laws of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, is divided into three distinct heads, the first, "The Ancient Charges," which, as containing the fundamental

* Rawle on the Constitution of the United States.

"principles" of the Order, are its Constitution. The second, "The Compact of June, 1827," which is declared to be "a fundamental law, and never to be disturbed." The third is headed "GENERAL REGULATIONS of the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New-York, revised, approved, and ordered to be published by the Grand Lodge, June 5th, A. L. 5845, A. D. 1845."

Now I will put the question to any and to every man of common sense, whether the articles which follow *this* head can be regarded as anything but "REGULATIONS?"

The first article, with some variation, is the same with the 39th article of the Regulations published in the old book of Constitutions, by the Grand Lodge of England, in 1723, which Preston speaks of as an "additional clause, and which I have before quoted. It was, therefore, "a regulation" from 1721, and is "a regulation" still. Here is the article as it now stands upon the Statute Book of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York :

ARTICLE I.

"Every Grand Lodge has an inherent power and authority, to make local ordinances and new regulations, as well as to amend and explain the old ones, for their own particular benefit, and the good of Masonry in general; *provided always, that the ancient land-marks be carefully preserved, and that such regulations be first duly proposed in writing, for the consideration of the members at the June Communication, and be AT LAST duly enacted with the consent of the MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT.*

These prerogatives have never been disputed, for the members of every Grand Lodge are the true Representatives of all the Fraternity in communication, and are an absolute and independent Body, with legislative authority, provided, (as aforesaid,) that the Grand Masonic Constitution be never violated, nor any of the old land-marks removed. Upon these principles the following *particular rules* have been made, and adopted in the Grand Lodge of the State of New York."

Here is then the evidence, in this first article, that these are "regulations," or "particular rules" for carrying out the "*principles*," "fundamental law," or "Constitutions" of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

The 2nd Article merely relates to the style or title of the Grand Lodge. The 3d is as follows :—

ARTICLE III.

"This Grand Lodge shall be composed of all the Grand Officers: the Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Wardens, Past Grand Secretaries, and Past Grand Treasurers; the Masters and Wardens, or the Representatives legally appointed, of all the Lodges under its jurisdiction; and the Past Masters by election and service one year in the Chair of all such Lodges under its jurisdiction."

This is the Article which the W. John S. Perry of Troy, proposed in June 1848, should be "amended" by disfranchising the Past Masters, thereby disfranchising one of the constituent elements of

the Grand Lodge of this State, decomposing the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and deranging the internal polity of the Body in several other respects.

This 3d Article of the "Regulations," or "Particular Rules," could only be altered or "amended," in accordance with the provision contained in the Article first above quoted, by being "first duly proposed in writing, for the consideration of the members at the June Communication, and *at last duly enacted with the consent of the MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT.*"

To the same effect is also the 7th article of the Regulations, which is as follows :

ARTICLE VII.

"The Grand Lodge shall meet in the City of New-York Annually, on the first Tuesday of June, at which Communication the Grand Officers shall be elected ; Quarterly Communications shall be held on the first Tuesday of September, December and March; Special Meetings may also be called by the Grand Master; *but no regulation affecting the general interest of the Craft shall be changed or adopted except at the meeting in June.*"

And by the 106th Article it could be finally acted on only at the next June Communication.

If this "proposed amendment" as it has been called, had been applicable to any article of the *Constitution*, (as we maintain it was not) instead of a regulation, there is no law in the whole volume authorizing the Grand Secretary or the Grand Master to declare such amendment adopted and forming an integral portion of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, simply on the affirmative vote of a majority of Lodges in addition to the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge at *one* June Communication, nor does the article 106 say, that on the affirmative vote of a majority of the Lodges the amendment proposed *shall become a law*, but it does say, it shall after receiving an affirmative vote in Grand Lodge, be sent to each Subordinate Lodge, "*in order that the Lodges may, if they think proper, instruct their Representatives thereon.*" The "proposed amendment" was not an amendment to any article of the *Constitution*, although it was delusively sent out to the Lodges as such, in the Annual Transactions of 1848, and secret instructions were sent from West Troy, to the country Lodges, which were not sent to the City Lodges, to act on it as such.

The following is the Article, with two sections, in the Regulations referred to.

"ARTICLE CVI.

"Future Amendments and New Regulations.

"1st. No amendment to this Constitution shall be made, or have any effect, until the same shall have had the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge at two successive June Communications, unless in addition to the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge, at one June Communication, it shall have received the

affirmative vote of a majority of the Lodges within this jurisdiction. If such proposed amendment shall receive the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge at one June Communication, the same shall then be appended to the published proceedings at the end, under the caption, "Proposed amendments to the Constitution," and sent to each Lodge within this jurisdiction, in order that the Lodges may, if they think proper, instruct their Representatives thereon, and the action of the Grand Lodge in relation thereto, shall also appear in its appropriate place in the proceedings.

"2d. The Grand Lodge may by vote, at any June Meeting, adopt new general Regulations not inconsistent with this Constitution, to have effect for such time as may be named therein, not exceeding one year from the time of their adoption. But, except for the time aforesaid, no general regulation or resolution to operate as such, affecting the Fraternity, or the Lodges, or their action, shall be made, or have any effect, unless the same shall have received the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge at two successive June Communications. If such proposed new Regulation shall receive the affirmative vote of the Grand Lodge at one June Meeting, it shall be appended to the published proceedings, at the end, under the caption, "Proposed New Regulations," and in that form sent to each Lodge within this jurisdiction."

The first of the above sections relates to alterations of the Constitution, the second section to alterations of the Regulations.

The laws of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York are herein plainly indicated, professed and acknowledged to be of two distinct characters—"Constitutions" and "Regulations."

If there are no such distinctions to be found in the book itself—if it be *all* Constitutions, or *all* Regulations, then the one or the other of the sections above quoted must be deceptive and incapable of being applied.

But such distinctions *are to be found in the Book itself*, and the article proposed to be altered is *one* of the Regulations, and as such should have been sent to each Lodge in the State as "Proposed new Regulations," which was not done, and, therefore, the subject had not been lawfully placed before the Lodges, nor lawfully acted on by those who did act on it.

11th. The proposition of the Worshipful J. S. Perry, in June, 1848, was to all intents and purposes not only a "new Regulation," but "new Regulations." It embodied not only a *radical* change in the third Article of the "General Regulations," but one *entirely new*, "to be numbered CVIII." It proposed to *reduce* the members of this Grand Lodge, who by inheritance, charter, custom, possession, and every other claim, were co-equal with all other members thereof, to a rank or condition of merely nominal membership, to deprive them of every valuable franchise they possessed, to create a class of "honorary members for life," which is a rank or condition of membership never before acknowledged, recognized, or named in any Constitution, Regulation, Rule, or Resolution, of the Grand Lodge of this State; and which, as a novelty and innovation on the body of Ancient York Masonry, involved a violation of duty to the Order, and a breach of plighted faith in every in-

stalled Master, Past Master, and Grand Master who would invent, sanction, consent to, or connive at such innovation and novelty, in the Grand Lodge of *this State*.

12th. That the Resolutions, (above quoted on page 33) "as unanimously adopted" at the quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge in March, 1849, were perfectly in accordance with the laws of the Grand Lodge; were designed to maintain those laws and the Compact of 1827, and neither proposed to *alter or amend any existing law, nor to establish any new one*, and were therefore *not* unconstitutional, as declared by D. G. M. Coles.

13th. That Grand Master John D. Willard violated his duty to the Grand Lodge, by *refusing to put the constitutional question duly made and seconded* at the Annual Communication on the 5th of June, 1849, that "the reading of the minutes of the last quarterly meeting be now proceeded with;" by declaring that motion out of order; by refusing to entertain an appeal from his decision; and by continuing to refuse to put that question after the Grand Lodge itself had reversed his decision. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting of the Grand Lodge and Grand Stewards' Lodge has *invariably* been the regular course of business in the Grand Lodge of this State, after the Lodges had been called;* the motion was perfectly in order, and was regularly made and seconded; and in the whole history of the Grand Lodge, no presiding officer had ever refused to entertain an appeal from his decision, but once, and that was by Grand Master Enos, on the evening of the 4th of June, 1823, when the Grand Lodge broke up in confusion, but was forthwith re-opened by the Junior Grand Warden, and proceeded to the election of Grand Officers.

14th. That Grand Master Willard violated his duty to the Grand Lodge at that meeting by exercising his authority *in an arbitrary and tyrannical manner*, and thereby forfeited all claim

* I have seen it stated, that the Rt. W. Brother Willis, when Deputy Grand Master, in June, 1843, had delivered his address to the Grand Lodge previous to the reading of the minutes. The error of the writer of that statement probably arose from the address alluded to being placed in the *printed* proceedings in a conspicuous place near the opening of the Grand Lodge, *but not as having been delivered at that time*. Other business before the Grand Lodge prevented its delivery until the 4th meeting afterward, when an opportunity was presented, and the address was read in Brother Willis's absence, as the Record shows. The *true key*, however, to this movement of the M. W. John D. Willard was simply this—he was honestly of opinion that the amendments could only be passed by the vote at two annual Communications, in accordance with the second subdivision of the 106th article of the Regulations; and the mere *reading* of the minutes at this time was not the true cause of his pertinacity. A vote of approval or adoption of those minutes was equivalent to a negative vote on the "amendments," and, fully convinced of this, he refused to have them read.

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to respect and consideration from the body which had thrice elected him Grand Master; and especially from that part of the body which he was endeavoring to crush by force, and to whom his gross insults were particularly directed. Every Past Master, whether of a Grand, or of a subordinate Lodge, will remember *where the law on this point is recorded.**

15th. And finally, That both Grand Secretary Boyd and Grand Master Willard violated their duty to the Grand Lodge by announcing and declaring that the amendment to the Constitution, (falsely so called,) proposed by the W. John S. Perry, in June, 1848, had been carried by the affirmative votes of 56 Lodges, (or a majority,) without producing the *legal evidence*, if they had it, and which, as has been subsequently ascertained, *they could not have produced, for the cause, that it did not exist.* I have the documents from the 56 Lodges, in duplicates, as left on file in the office I have the honor now to occupy, to maintain this declaration.

Having exhibited the grounds upon which the Lodges which have, "in Grand Lodge assembled," directed this letter to be written, justify and vindicate themselves in the course they pursued to maintain the original organization of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, and to preserve inviolate the Compact of 1827, I shall now proceed to show that they carried out their intention in a legal, orderly, and constitutional manner.

Whatever of noise and confusion, intense excitement or manifestation of indignation were exhibited in the course of the evening of the 5th of June, during the session of the Grand Lodge, all was caused by the course taken by the Grand Master himself, previous to the election, and by some of his friends afterwards. During the election there was as little confusion as could reasonably have been expected in a large assembly,—and much less than I have often seen in the same body on ordinary election occasions. Whatever confusion existed before or after the election, neither affected the legality nor regularity of that election. When Grand Master Willard announced his position as *presiding officer of such an organization of Masons as had never before existed in this State*, it is not to be disputed that the body he addressed was the whole Grand Lodge regularly assembled at their Annual Communication. By that body the Rt. W. William Willis, Past Deputy Grand Master, acting at that time as Senior Grand Warden, was called on to preside as

* "If the Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the Lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be dictated by the occasion; because, hitherto, the Ancient Fraternity have had no reason to provide for an event which they have presumed would never happen."—*Gen. Reg. G. Lodge England, ed. 1847.*

Grand Master, on a motion regularly made and seconded, which was put and decided in the usual form; the *principal Grand officers, pro tem.*, were also regularly appointed. The other officers, from the Grand Marshal to the Grand Tiler, remained at their posts. No one in the body either spoke or voted against this temporary organization. The case presented now for consideration is this—

1st. Had the body when assembled power to elect?

2d. If so, was that power exercised rightfully and properly?

And 1st. Had the Grand Lodge the power to elect officers at the time the election was held?

The Grand Officers had been elected for one year from the Annual Communication in June, 1848, to the Annual Communication in June, 1849. Their term of office was ended whenever the assembled Grand Lodge saw fit to elect new officers. After the Grand Lodge had assembled, was opened, and in order for business, they had a right to proceed to any business they thought proper. If they pleased to exercise their privilege of electing officers, that order of business was paramount to all others. The Grand Lodge on this occasion, after the reading and approval of the minutes, and listening to the Grand Master's address, *Resolved* "to proceed with the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing year." The motion was regularly made and seconded, and adopted by the Grand Lodge.

The Rt. W. Isaac Phillips, Past Deputy Grand Master, was regularly nominated for the office of Grand Master,—no other candidate was nominated, and the usual motion was made, "That when there is but one candidate for any office, the election shall be held by show of hands." This was carried by *an unanimous vote*, and fulfilled the requirement of the 9th Article of the General Regulations. The M. W. Isaac Phillips was then, by an unanimous vote, elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York for the ensuing year. In the same harmonious and unanimous manner were *all* the Grand Officers elected. Every motion made and seconded was put to vote with as much order and decorum as though nothing unpleasant had taken place throughout the evening. During the whole of this election and the remainder of the meeting, Bro. John D. Willard neither spoke nor attempted to interfere with the progress of business. He had denied to the body assembled the right to entertain any question to be voted upon; he had forfeited his position and the prerogatives of a presiding officer by *unjust and tyrannical conduct*, and the body had provided a remedy against further insults from him, or giving him again the opportunity of refusing to put any question to the Grand Lodge. The remedy was an unusual one, but *the occasion demanded it, and no other was apparent.*

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ad. Did the Grand Lodge exercise the power of election right-
fully and properly?

This question I have in part answered above, by showing that it was held according to the usage and the requirements of the law of the Grand Lodge of this State, when there is no contest for office. The same members were present as at the opening of the Grand Lodge. None but members should be present either at the opening of the Grand Lodge or at the election, and if there were any Brethren present at the opening or at the election who were not entitled to be there, the responsibility is on the Grand Master who presided at the opening. The election was *unanimous*.

To the course thus promptly pursued, our Brethren were compelled by necessity—the necessity of the moment. Not one of them knew when he entered the Grand Lodge room on that eventful evening, in what manner their antagonists intended to carry out their design. The first movement was in the hands of the chief revolutionist. He might have chosen to have suppressed all information at that time; he might have (with truth) announced, that the (so called) “amendment to the Constitution” had not been adopted; he might have declared, as the quarterly meeting in March had done, that it was not capable of being entertained; he might have “adjourned the Grand Lodge until the next morning at 9 o’clock,” or such other movement as his inventive genius might suggest. He had the choice of action, and he made it; and he undertook to carry it out with a strong hand. He had aimed at an object too intently to turn from its accomplishment,* he had marshalled his forces, and in his pride of place, he despised the power which had given that place to him, and which was superior to his—the will and voice of the assembled Grand Lodge. His arbitrary and tyrannical conduct could have been borne or excused by none but satellites or slaves.

If many Brethren filled with indignation at such conduct, manifested it, it was the spontaneous overflow of nature, for those Brethren by becoming Masons had not ceased to be Men. Many, probably, were offended by the thunder on that stormy night, forgetting that the thunder is *harmless*, and only follows the *lightning* which scathes in its descent.

The Lodges which had been represented in the Convention of the 29th of January, 1849, by their delegates, knew that those

* The object was characteristically expressed on board of the steamboat at Albany, by the W. Brother William H. Shumway, (whom the Grand Master called on to read the rules of order, on the 5th of June,) when speaking of the reported passage of the “amendments.”—A Brother importuned him and others that the differences of opinion should be all harmonised by an informal meeting of the members before the Grand Lodge was opened; his reply was,—“We have got our foot upon their necks and, d—n them, we mean to keep it there.”

delegates had appointed an executive committee. The names of the members of that committee, seven in number, had been published. To that committee had been entrusted the duty of maintaining in the Grand Lodge, or elsewhere, the principles they had proclaimed, and these facts had been published and sent to every Lodge in the State. That committee perfectly understood that their first duty was, to *prevent* the Grand Lodge, as established by the Charter of 1781, and bound by the Compact of 1827, *from being dissolved*, and it is altogether a lapse of memory (*at least*) in those who have represented a member of that committee as declaring, that the Grand Lodge *was* dissolved. What he really said is already stated. It had been also the earnest request of that committee that there might be no confusion in the Grand Lodge. Confusion, however, did ensue, which was altogether unexpected, but the Grand Master himself was the primary cause of it, and some of his partizans assisted in keeping it up.

Some Brethren say, "We believe you were right but we do not like the way you got at it." It has been asked on our part, "What other way was left for us from the first developement of the plans of our opponents in their Geneva Circular and their *secret instructions* to the country Lodges, to prevent the subject from being met and fairly discussed in the Grand Lodge, by passing upon it in their particular Lodges?" The meeting held upon a short notice at the Howard House, by the Masters and Past Masters, on the 31st of October, declared their views of the question distinctly, and they were sent to all the Lodges in advance of their address which followed soon afterward. Several of the Lodges in the city also sent forth their Circulars, each expressive of their particular opinions, but all to the same point. The Convention of Delegates from 27 Lodges, held on the 29th of January, and 10th of February, 1849, plainly expressed the views of their Lodges and of several others which could not conveniently be represented at that season of the year. The Grand Lodge itself at a quarterly meeting on the 6th of March, 1849, unanimously declared the proposed alteration of the organization of the Grand Lodge could not be lawfully effected, and that any action thereon, either by individual Lodges or otherwise, would be void, and of no force or effect.

At the annual meeting in June, the Grand Master attempted to waste away the first evening of that meeting by absenting himself, and afterwards by other expedients; both himself and the Grand Secretary attempted to thrust their *dicta* in relation to the action of the individual Lodges, upon the assembly, and to *suppress* the reading of the minutes of March the 6th, and thereby suppress, for aught we knew, official information to the Body. By the firmness of the Body, however, those minutes *were read and approved with-*

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out a dissenting vote, and yet, notwithstanding all these facts, G. Master Willard selected his course, declared the obnoxious resolutions had been carried by a majority of the Lodges, and were an integral part of the Constitution, thereby declaring a majority of the members of the Grand Lodge had been disfranchised by a minority of their co-equal members. In view of these facts, we have not yet met the first one who has pointed out any other way than that which was adopted at the moment, except the alternative of submission to the dictum of one in whom we had lost all confidence. From the Circulars written by himself or his partizans, it was evident that they relied for support, not upon a plain strait-forward course, but upon a system of deception and effrontery; a confidence that the brethren they addressed, would take for granted that what they said was truth, and the whole truth, when we know that they had concealed or misrepresented the essential truth, and that, not from ignorance, but with design to destroy the rights of those, whose rights were co-equal with their own; "original rights, agreed on as maxims, and established as preliminaries" before the Grand Lodge of the Province or State of New-York existed, and conditions of an original contract before the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1827.

Those rights inherited from those which preceded us we were determined to preserve for ourselves and our successors; we made, we intended to make, no innovation on the Body of Masonry, the Landmarks of the Order, the Compact, the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge. Our aim never deviated from one point;—to preserve the whole inviolate as it was, and as it is, and this is what we consider we have accomplished, in the only way apparent to us. Our Lodges have placed themselves in the breach to defend the inherent and vested rights of their Past Masters and their own rights, precisely upon the same principle as that which animated the patriots of Switzerland when they refused to bow before the *Hat of their oppressor*; the same principle which prompted the citizens of London and the colonists of America to resist the tyrannical acts of the Stuarts; the principle which has rendered "the Charter Oak" at Hartford, an object of interest to the present day; the principle for which, at a later period, Joseph Warren gave up his life at Bunker Hill; and in defence of which Washington won for his name immortal renown.

The fraternity of New-York esteem their masonic rights and franchises as precious as their rights of property or their political franchises; they have preserved them, not for one section of the State, but for the whole. They recognize no sectional distinctions. The Grand Lodge of the State of New-York has undergone no such transformation as the late Grand Master Willard declared it

had on the evening of the 5th of June, and his partizans since have endeavored to induce the Fraternity to believe.

All that it ever was it is still; it holds jurisdiction over all the Lodges of the State; and if it has magnanimously forborne to call to account those who for a time have manifested, through the influence of error, or mis-placed confidence, a refractory disposition, it is because it trusts and believes that truth will prevail, and that it is more becoming of the honorable principles she has maintained, to hold forth the symbols of forbearance and peace, than to follow the evil example of her opponents by petty persecutions. She has a work to perform, however, which she did not anticipate.

That work is in progress, and will still further unveil to the Brethren of this State, and all other States, the mystery of iniquity which has been practised on them. Should it become necessary at a future time to vindicate her right and title to Masonic supremacy in this jurisdiction, she will not shrink from that duty, for those who have set their hands to the work will not turn back.

Such attacks as have been made upon the body by whose direction this appeal is made are not altogether without precedent, if I may judge from the tenor of a letter received from our Mother Grand Lodge, dated at London, the 27th of December, 1802, and addressed to our Grand Secretary at that time, John Abrams; from which, as applicable to our position, I make the following extracts:—

“Right Worshipful Sir and Brothers:—The communications which the Grand Lodge has made from time to time to you and the Lodges under the Ancient Constitutions must have been gratifying to the heart of every Brother, since they serve to show the increasing prosperity and the solid establishment of Ancient Masonry in England. You are aware, that in the love of change (a thing to which all institutions, however sacred, are subject) Masonry has not totally escaped the rage of innovation. When men suffer themselves to depart from the purity of original principles, they are liable to run into the wildest extravagance. * * * While we strictly adhere to the solidity of our land-marks, the truth and purity of our obligations, and preserve the simple strength and beauty of our laws, those columns of the structure—we may smile with compassion on the feeble assaults of envy, and even expose our breasts to the unavailing shafts of malignity itself.

We have too much respect for every society that acts under the Masonic name, however imperfect the imitation, to enter into a war of reproaches, and, therefore, will not retort on an institution [* * * *] the unfavorable aspersions into which a part of their body have suffered themselves to be surprised.

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Their own sense of propriety will soon make them ashamed of having listened to the falsehoods of an unworthy individual; who having attempted to prostitute Masonry into a gainful trade [was expelled the Ancient Grand Lodge of England for mal-practices] They seem not only to have caught the contagion of his malignant spirit, but have condescended to make themselves the instruments of his fury. We leave them to the sure working of time and reflection on their hearts, and only take this slight notice of the circumstance to put the Masonic world upon its guard against the ribaldries which have been published by this illiterate person under the appearance of their sanction."

I have thus to the extent of my ability, under the disadvantage of continued indisposition during the whole of the past summer, laid before the Grand Lodges of the world, a sketch of the original foundation and subsequent history of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, so far as I have deemed it necessary in elucidation of its present position; I have traced the origin and progress of the movements made by a factious party to deprive the Past Masters of the State of their rights as members of the Grand Lodge, and to violate the Compact of 1827; I have stated the grounds of justification in the course taken for the preservation of the Grand Lodge according to its original organization on the pure Ancient York basis, and the Compact, by the Lodges which directed this address to be written.

Those Lodges believe they were both Masonically and Legally right; and they are convinced that they have a just and perfect right to claim and to hold the title of THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, as its preservers from dissolution. They therefore, with confidence, *appeal to their sister Grand Lodges to sustain them*, and they have no fears of the result. They have not thought it necessary to fulminate proscriptive edicts, nor mendacious circulars broadcast through the land to forestal public opinion, in imitation of their opponents. They stand upon the solid platform of truth and justice, and their expression of censure rests only on the true (but few) authors of the discord, which exists in the Masonic family of this State, whose course was contrary to *all law, reason, justice*, and good faith.

JAMES HERRING, Grand Secretary

of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

October 23rd, 1849.